THE MADOC MERCURY AND NORTH RIDING NEWS.

MADOC, HASTINGS CO., C.W.] SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1865. [PRICE TWO CENTS.

...ERICAN REVOLUTION.

...oops entered the city of Wilmington ... After the evacuation of Fort Anderson ...rates attempted to make a stand, but ...ed them in their rear, and routed ...ar...ival of the U. S. forces opposite ... the 21st, the Confederate left in the ...ning 1,000 bales of cotton and 15,000 ...

...e only seaport of any consequence ...session of the Confederates. Rumours ...n to evacuate the city have been current ...time past, but recent deserters from ...or's army declare that there is no intention Mobile, which has always been ... arms and military material of all kinds. ... Attempts are also being made to ... ports in the interior and point in the State of ... good defensive condition against ex... without weakening Mobile. Gen. Rod... was lately reported to have deserted the ... cause, has, the Richmond Sentinel states, ...ntered the Federals several times in ..., driving them into their fortifications at ...—Gen. Grant is said to be planning ... from three different points against Mississippi. This shows the opinion ... by mutual consent, is liked, towards the Atlantic States, has no very good ...

...thing further ... from Gen. Sherman ... to ... as the Richmond ... about the military ... must wait, there ... the defeat which they ... still be, by a further ... communication with Grant ... than last accounts left ... said, has gone southwards ... Johnston being left in command ... and Petersburg. The reports of ... those places are again repeated ... papers; while the Richmond editors ... of the situation of affairs, and ... some great blunder is committed. ... danger now than it was when Grant ... advance upon it last year.—The military movements in that quarter are ... According to some accounts, a considerable ... Confederate troops are believed to be ... to act against Sherman, and ... army is under marching orders; ... hand, the continued arrival of ... Beauregard to Lee is alleged. Other ... boast, that Lee had attacked Grant, ... suffered a severe reverse; and that ... ...ested Beauregard: neither of which ... way confirmed.

...that ...orth Carolina is ready, as soon ... his appearance there, to rejoin the ... borne out, by the action of Gov. ... issued a proclamation, in which he ... for freedom shall never be given ... entreats the people to rise, and ... the South is suffering are caused ... absent without leave. The State ... the scene of actual hostilities, as ..., of considerable forces are advancing ... to co-operate with Sherman.

In anticipation of an attempt on the part of Lee to make his way from Richmond, via Lynchburg, through the Mountains to East Tennessee or Kentucky, a Federal expedition left Knoxville lately to destroy the railroad which he would use in that case. Great excitement is said, however, to have been caused in Knoxville, from a report that Longstreet's command of Confederates was moving on that place.

Gen. Lee has published a letter saying that an army of negroes is not only expedient but necessary, as he does not think the white population can supply the necessities of a long war. The Confederate Senate, however, by a majority of one, has rejected the bill to call 200,000 negroes into the field. The Richmond papers are in a fume, and the Gulf States are charged with abandoning the cause.

Additional precautions are being taken at City Point and other places for the proper reception of the Confederate rams, which are expected soon to make another attempt at a raid down James River.

The opinion is gaining ground that the Confederates are being fast enclosed in a net from which they can not possibly escape; but it seems that their stock of strategic devices is not yet exhausted. The Louisville Journal, a paper not given to "sensation" reports, in speaking of Lee's army, editorially says:—"We have reason to say that the Confederates are expecting very soon to startle the whole country and astonish the world. No matter what our reason may be, it is a good one."

Confederation in New Brunswick.

The opposition to the "Scheme of Confederation" appears to be gathering strength in New Brunswick, although some of the papers favouring the proposition state the reverse. At any rate, out of seven candidates for election in the County of Charlotte five declare themselves opposed to, and only two in favour of Confederation according to the resolutions of the Quebec Conference. The Intercolonial railroad first, and time sufficient to consider the terms on which Union can be made equitably acceptable to all the Provinces is what the vigilant and sturdy New Brunswickers demand. While the Canadian Government intends, evidently, to allow the people no voice in the question at all, it is matter of complaint in New Brunswick that they are allowed only a few weeks to consider the question, before being called on to accept or reject it. From two of the election cards we find in the *Charlotte Advocate*, we make the following extracts, as "specimen bricks" of the by no means flattering estimate formed of the financial condition of Canada and the character of her statesmen and politicians:—

Mr. Joseph Donald says:—

"I am not opposed to a Confederation that will give to New Brunswick an honourable position in the United Empire, and secure to us and our children our liberties unfurnished; but the present scheme, in its present form, as an individual I shall steadfastly oppose for the following reasons.

"First—that I see in the present scheme a centralization of aristocratic power which is fraught with danger to the liberties and interests of the people—and more especially the working classes. A power when consolidated must be backed up by a standing army, which will largely increase taxation for a bad purpose; and the heaviest burden will fall (as it always does) upon the working man.

"Secondly—that the present scheme transfers all legislative power of consequence from New Brunswick to Canada, leaving New Brunswick powerless to act for her interests, by only having 15 Members in the House of Commons against 147 Canadians, thus virtually putting us under the government of strangers and ambitious politicians, whom Mr. Tilley more than once has declared to be deceivers unworthy of trust—thus New Brunswick sacrifices everything; our political liberties, by giving up our present form of government; and our interests, by giving to Canada the control of our revenue, for which we receive no corresponding benefit in return. I could give many more reasons, but the limits of an Election Card will not allow it, but the whole arrangements have been conducted in a clandestine and revolting manner, unworthy of the representatives of a free and intelligent people."

Mr. James Boyd remarks as follows:—

"I cannot be expected to visit you all personally, but will make arrangements for holding meetings in the most convenient places in the different Parishes and endeavor to explain my views on the confederation scheme. It is of the greatest importance to yourselves and the rising generation to consider the matter well, and not let yourselves be led astray by silly-tongued individuals, who are only seeking your destruction that they may be in a position to rivet chains upon you that can never be broken unless by a rebellion, an awful which will assuredly take place, if you, by your votes, place men in power, who to please the present government would vote for a Union of the Provinces.

"The Gentlemen at the head of the different governments in the Provinces have but one grand object, self aggrandisement. They are not content to be great men in their own Provinces; the field is not large enough for them; and they are therefore, straining every nerve to create, as they call it, a New Nation, and thereby secure to themselves, the ruling power, and fat places and increased salary.

"Canada is no country for us to be united unto—her great men, or most of them, are bankrupt in character and politics.

"Their country is immersed in a heavy debt; she has no credit abroad, and without grasping at our revenues, she has no visible way of getting out of her entanglements. I can have no other object in view than to prevent so great a calamity befalling us; my only aim will be to stick to our Ark of safety until the last plank drops to the bottom. Stick to the old motto dont risk to let go a certainty for an uncertainty. Our Province is in a healthy and thriving condition, and with good guidance, we have enough for our wants, and to spare."

THE OPENING OF THE SUEZ CANAL.—Contrary to the predictions of certain distinguished Engineers—and to the wishes of certain of our countrymen, who have manifested an unaccountable desire to see the scheme thwarted—Mr. Ferdinand de Lesseps has married the waters of the Red Sea and the Mediterranean, and has had the pleasure of conveying the experimental party of twenty or thirty persons, in a barge tugged by a steamer, along the whole distance. The voyage occupied twenty-four hours. The depth of the canal is as yet scarcely five feet; its breadth not quite fifty. Mr. de Lesseps has now invited the cooperation of all the European Chambers of Commerce, in devising means for rendering serviceable what has been done, and for enlarging the canal itself in such way as to make it beneficial to commerce. And until this enlargement be effected, the watery way in question is little more than a curious instance of what costly disbursement and earnest perseverance can accomplish. To have eclipsed Darius and one of the Pharaohs may, we say, be highly gratifying to an imaginative or theoretical mind; but dividends are one thing and ocular gratification is another. At present, the thousands of travellers to and from India, who pass through Egypt, are no more likely to quit the railroad and betake themselves to the canal, than are European travellers through the Netherlands of to-day to return to the old-fashioned *trek-schuits*.—*N. Y. Albion.*

Sandringham House, the Prince of Wales's seat in Norfolk, has had a narrow escape from destruction. A fire, from a defective flue, broke out one night, but was fortunately extinguished, after doing damage to the extent of £100.

It is said that a French chemist has discovered the process of fixing the natural colours of any object photographed.

THE MADOC MERCURY

AND NORTH RIDING NEWS.

A weekly Journal of Local and General Information.

Will be Published every Saturday Morning, at Two Cents a Copy, or One Dollar a Year, STRICTLY in advance.

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Each subsequent insertion	0 15
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Each subsequent insertion, per line	0 02

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For sale at WILSON'S MEDICAL HALL, Madoc, where Subscribers in and near the village may obtain their copies, and orders for the paper and advertisements will obligingly be received.

☞ SUBSCRIPTIONS PAYABLE YEARLY OR QUARTERLY IN ADVANCE.

AMERICAN WAR NEWS.—Instead of Gen. Lee having gone south to oppose Sherman, leaving Gen. Joe Johnston in command at Richmond, the latter has been sent to supersede Beauregard, the former remaining at his old post.

The Richmond Enquirer says that the Confederate Congressmen have become frightened; that they are one by one flying from the capital, leaving the skeleton of the legislature rapidly diminishing to a number below a quorum.

Columbia, in South Carolina, is reported to have been burnt and Augusta, in Georgia, to have been captured by the Federals.

THE MADOC MERCURY

AND NORTH RIDING NEWS.

MADOC, SATURDAY, MARCH 4.

SEED GRAIN.

Public Meeting in the Town-Hall.

The meeting of the ratepayers of the Township of Madoc, called by A. F. Wood, esq., the Reeve, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of obtaining a supply of seed grain for the present year, brought together a very large and respectable representation from all parts of the township, in the Town-Hall, on Monday afternoon last.

The chair was taken by the Reeve, and on the motion of Dr. Elmer, seconded by Mr. Tassie, Mr. G. D. RYDER was appointed Secretary.

The REEVE said the meeting was called for an object that concerned the interests of all in the township. He might state the occasion of it. At the last meeting of the County Council of 1864, the matter was discussed among the members, as to the propriety of asking the Government for another Seed Grain Bill like that of last year, and a resolution was passed directing the Warden to communicate with the Government on the subject. He accordingly did so, and the bill for the purpose had been introduced by Mr. Wallbridge in the Lower House, and passed; and it would pass without difficulty in the Upper House. He had thought it necessary to call a public meeting of the municipality, to ascertain the feeling of the public in the matter, as after what had occurred with reference to the seed grain of 1863-4, he would not take the responsibility of acting in the matter alone. With reference to the seed grain of 1863—the seed was got and given out on the security of the real estate of those who obtained it. The season was a bad one, and many scarcely got back their seed, and only a few had any to grind. They could easily understand why he felt unwilling to act alone in the matter. He thought the country really wanted seed grain in 1863, and though the failure of the crops made it difficult to pay for it, every farthing of it but about $30 would be repaid, and there was consequently but a very small proportion of loss for each of the taxpayers to make up. This result showed that then there was no loss comparatively speaking. Now the question is—Is it best to get seed grain for 1865? Do we need it? He believed we did, for not more than one in five of the farmers had got good seed grain, and owing to the succession of bad seasons, the people generally could not get it. What would be the effect if they did not get it? This:—Very few people had sufficient stamina to keep out of debt after one bad season, hoping that the next harvest would get them out of it; and then, as they became more embarrassed, if they could not sow their ground, they would not get crops to pay their debts at all. Then how should they look at this matter? Seeing that they would suffer without seed grain, how were they to supply it? The Government had passed the bill, and if they were to get the seed at all, it must be on the principle of that bill.—Mr. Wood then compared the township to a farm, of which the taxpayers were the owners, and the farmers were tenants,—the township collectively possessing sufficient credit to supply the wants of those at any time, individually in need of assistance, for the purpose of improving the property to the best advantage: showing that all the ratepayers were interested in doing so now, in procuring a supply of seed grain; urging in reply to the objection that might be raised by some, that the present want was the fault of the laziness of individuals,—that from sickness or misfortune, there were some in the community that needed help, and that it was the interest of the township to help such. He believed the county was poor from causes over which the people had no control. Then give us seed grain, and time to pay for it. Are those who do not require seed grain prepared to provide it for those who do? Very few persons got on in this world without help from their friends; and there was many a man who, if now assisted, would be able to pay up all he owes and become independent; but if not, he would remain as he is embarrassed, but becoming poorer all the time. He did not believe that the grain should be given. A gift was an injury to an able-bodied man. Like the waggoner who called upon Jupiter for help, those who wanted to get out of the present difficulty, must first of all put their own shoulders to the wheel.—Mr. Wood concluded his remarks, which were loudly applauded, by calling upon any gentlemen who wished to address the meeting, to come forward and do so.

Mr. O'HARA being called on by the meeting to give his views, said he considered it of little importance to make any remarks on the subject, since the necessity of providing seed grain had been so fairly put before them by the preceding speaker. He had been thinking the matter over for a few days past, and though he found some with whom he had conversed condemned the proposition, he had come to the conclusion that it would be a benefit to the country to provide seed grain in the manner proposed. He believed if others benefited by it, so would he. He was glad to find the other seed grain account had been paid up so well, and if they lost double the amount by getting seed grain this time, he thought even then the community would be benefited. He had heard it said that some of those who might get seed, would do as they did before—instead of sowing it they would get it ground. He was not inclined to blame those, who if their families were starving, did that. They were worse off now than in 1863. But he hoped none of them would keep seed in their house while their children were starving. Let them take what they wanted—and God bless the remainder! Many were now suffering from want. He would vote for the grain, and he presumed there was not a man there who would be so reckless as to squander it.

Mr. W. H. CARPENTER next briefly addressed the meeting, and said he thought it would be a decided benefit to get seed grain for the section of country where he resided. He went into the house of a man in Tudor, to collect a debt, who showed him he had but about twenty pounds of flour left for himself and children. Others were in the same condition—and for want of seed two-thirds of their lands would lie idle this year. He thought also that two-thirds of the people were in favour of the seed grain being obtained.

No one else [illegible] the chairman called upon

Mr. MONROE, who said [illegible] showed the great interest [illegible] seed grain were got by [illegible] knew something to do with [illegible] thought interested in [illegible] objected to the general principle [illegible] providing seed [illegible] went into the business, [illegible] successfully.

The REEVE said merchants [illegible] to make money out of the [illegible] not take the same security [illegible] authorized to do. The [illegible] should have it—not those [illegible] best. (Hear, hear.)

The following sections [illegible] then read for the information [illegible]

"The County Council shall [illegible] such sum as they may deem [illegible] requisite for the same, and shall [illegible] in each year, against the Municipalities [illegible] above all other County rates, [illegible] repaid.

"The Township Councils shall [illegible] and may also lend any surplus [illegible] sion, not otherwise appropriated [illegible] the purposes aforesaid.

"The Township Councils, [illegible] purchase seed and deliver the [illegible] in the place of money.

"The Township Council shall [illegible] within which such loan shall be [illegible] and collect a special annual rate [illegible] rates, against the estate, real [illegible] owning, and all the rights and [illegible] which now or at any time here[illegible] tion of any other rate or tax [illegible] if it see fit, may take other security [illegible] payment of such loan.

"No money raised under this [illegible] other purpose, and any surplus [illegible] added to the sinking fund, for [illegible] tures issued as aforesaid.

"No money lent or seed delivered [illegible] seized in execution, garnished [illegible]

Mr. W. WARD, Deputy [illegible] whoever got the seed grain, [illegible] fit of the whole township, [illegible] ther could we reap. He had [illegible] found that there was scarcely [illegible] among the best of their farmers [illegible] those who, because they had [illegible] ing to take any responsibility [illegible] were wrong in their views.

Mr. [illegible]MOUR said he [illegible] matter [illegible] he believed [illegible] if we [illegible] the farmers [illegible] had no [illegible] grain. [illegible] sufficient [illegible] under co[illegible] all together [illegible] separate. [illegible] we should [illegible] ways some dis[illegible] and if they were [illegible] likely to steal. M[illegible] in distress as to fin[illegible] willing to help. He [illegible] years, had worked and [illegible] but he was willing to incur [illegible] he did, that so many were [illegible] good predominated over [illegible] before the meeting. If any [illegible] to need seed grain, they [illegible] those who did; and he hoped [illegible] obtained that no one of them [illegible] realized, was that all would [illegible] sisted to help their neighbors [illegible]

The SPEAKER was then put [illegible]

"Is this meeting of the [illegible] required?"

And "Shall the Township [illegible] ary steps to get seed grain [illegible]

—Which were carried [illegible]

On the question as to the [illegible] kinds of grain needed, the [illegible] Dr. Elmer proposed—1500 [illegible] peas, 300 do oats, 300 do [illegible]

Mr. D. L. Cummins seconded [illegible] moved in amendment, seconded [illegible]

The Chairman said that [illegible] $6,000, and that the Council [illegible] must go for the money. [illegible] to raise so much as that [illegible] paid for no more, it would [illegible] $30,000 for the county.

Mr. W. Ward then moved [illegible] that the amount should [illegible] 1200 do peas, 600 do barley [illegible]

Mr. Seymour said he [illegible] as necessary, but there [illegible] was better to be a little [illegible]

...should be much they could possibly do ...rather than how much they could sow.

...Dr. L. Cummins thought if the number of persons requiring seed grain was taken into consideration, the highest quantity would not be found too large. The various propositions were then put to the vote in the order in which they had been submitted. The first two were rejected, and the last adopted.

The meeting then passed a vote of thanks to the ...B. Flint, and T. C. Wallbridge, Esq., for the able part they had taken in getting the seed grain bill passed.

The thanks of the meeting were also tendered to the ...ir for the able manner in which he had conducted the business of the meeting; and to the Secretary, for his services—for which they respectively returned their thanks.

The Secretary was directed to forward a copy of the resolutions adopted by the Members for the Trent Division and for North Hastings, and the meeting broke up, after giving three hearty cheers for the Queen.

To the Editor of the Madoc Mercury.

Sir.—At the meeting of the ratepayers of Madoc, held at the Town Hall on Monday last, the Municipal Council were instructed by the unanimous vote of the meeting to purchase seed grain, as follows:—1500 bushels of wheat, 1200 bushels peas, 800 bushels of oats, and 600 bushels of barley, for the purpose of selling the same on credit to the farmers, to be used as seed grain payable next fall, on the condition that the purchaser shall give such security for payment as shall be required by the Council.

In default of payment, as agreed on by the parties, the law authorizes the collection to be made by the taxgatherer, in the same manner as the usual Township taxes are collected.

Now, Mr. Editor, I think the Council should, before selling the grain aforesaid inform the Sureties of the full extent of their respective liabilities, by answering the following question. In default of payment on the part of the purchaser, shall the Collector seize the property of the purchaser or the property of the surety or both?

An answer will oblige an ENQUIRER.

REPLY.—If the Council think the applicant has sufficient property, no other security will be required; but in case of default, security for a purchaser will be the party held responsible.

Madoc Township Council.

The Municipal Council met in the Town-Hall on Wednesday, the 1st instant. Present:—A. F. Wood, Reeve; W. Ward, Deputy Reeve, and S. Reed, W. Blair, and J. Tassie Councillors.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

On motion of Mr. Ward, seconded by Mr. Tassie, the sum of $2.25 was ordered to be refunded to John McCaffery, and the assessment to be altered to agree with the same.

Mr. Ward introduced a by-law which was considered in committee of the whole; establishing a Court of Revision for 1865; composed of the members of the Township Council, of which the Reeve was appointed Chairman; the Court to be held on the 17th day of April.

The Committee rose, reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

On motion of Mr. Ward the boundaries of School Section No. 17 were altered so as to include the West halves of lots 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 in the 2nd concession.

Adjourned for one hour.

On meeting again, the Seed Grain question was taken up, and a resolution was moved by Mr. Reed, seconded by Mr. Blair, that the Reeve and Deputy Reeve be directed to apply for $3000, to be expended in seed grain for those requiring it in this municipality.

Moved by Mr. Tassie, seconded by Mr. Reed, that the following be the amount of the different kinds of grain purchased.

1,200	bushels	Fife Wheat.
1,000	"	Golden-vine Peas.
800	"	Four-rowed Barley.
600	"	White Oats.

Moved by Mr. Ward, seconded by Mr. Blair, that Henry Cooke be employed to purchase the seed grain.

Moved by Mr. Ward, seconded by Mr. Blair, that the Reeve be directed to secure a storehouse for receiving and delivery of the seed grain, and to see to the insuring of the same.

A petition was received from E. D. O'Flynn and 35 others, asking the Council to grant a sufficient sum of money to purchase plank and material to extend the sidewalk from its present termination to Duan's Corners, on condition that the parties living in that beat will perform the work of laying down the walk by statute labour.—Laid over till the meeting of the Council in April.

The by-law establishing the Court of Revision was passed.

Adjourned till the 19th of April.

The Wesleyan Missionary Meeting in connection with the Wesleyan Methodist Church in this village was held on Thursday evening. The attendance was not so large as has been anticipated, the weather proving unfavourable, and preventing some of the speakers from a distance who had promised to come from making their appearance. In the absence of Thomas Esq. Esq., of Huntingdon, who had been expected to preside, the chair was taken by A. F. Wood, Esq., who discharged the duties of the position with his usual tact and ability. Except in a financial point of view, the meeting was in all respects successful, the addresses delivered by the Rev. Messrs Ryan, Baxter, Wishart, Campbell, and Harris, and Mr. John Female, giving general satisfaction. After the usual vote of thanks to the Ladies, the Choir, and the Chairman, the meeting was dismissed, the Rev. Mr. Campbell pronouncing the benediction.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

LIST OF LETTERS

Remaining in Madoc Post Office up to the February 28, 1865.

Brown, Jas & John	Ketchenson, Mrs P
Brown, D C	Louis, Isiah
Bradshaw, Jeptha	Lyle, Robert
Breaken, idge, Jas	Mc Guire, James
Brown, Wm	Mc Coy, Wm J
Chisholm, M	Murphy, Patrick
Creage, Samuel	Macbeth, William
Coons, Miss M E	Martin, Jessie
Dalmage, Samuel	Monroe, L
Dickens, Wm	Mc Goffs, Mrs
Dowd, C P	Martin, Samuel
Eager, Mrs Elizabeth	Mooney, Wm H
Fitzpatrick, John	Nelson, Mr A
Fitzpatrick, John	Pollock, John
Fitzpatrick, John	Pelow, Louis
Fox, Miss Jenny	Rosaw, Miss Margaret
Fife, James	Raspberry, Mary
Frisc, Mr G	Stackpole Agustos
Hannah, J W	St Charles, John
Hulin, James	St Charles, Johnny
Hulin, Mary	Stetrow, James
Hemstreet, Samuel	Vancleek, Peter
Hermon, Mrs Wm	Wannamaker, J H
Howe, Simon	Wannemaker, J H

A. F. WOOD, *Postmaster.*

MADOC HOUSE.

WOOD & BREAKELL,

General Merchants,

Are Paying the HIGHEST PRICE in CASH for any Quantity of

Wheat, Rye, Barley, Oats, and Peas.

FLOUR for Sale, fresh ground and in Barrels.

AUGUST 17, 1864.

FARM TO LET.

THE FARM, containing 200 acres, Lot No. 9, in the 9th Concession of Huntingdon, with extensive buildings, known as

"The Old Francis Place."

Rent moderate.

This Farm is on the County gravel road from Belleville to MADOC, Five Miles from the latter place, where there is a cash market for produce. Apply to

ROMEO H. STEPHENS, Montreal, or
M. F. HAYES, Madoc.

April 18, 1864.

NORTH HASTINGS.

JOB PRINTING

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With Neatness and Dispatch.

SUPPORT THE LOCAL INSTITUTIONS!!

North American Hotel, Madoc.

W. HUDGINS

RESPECTFULLY informs the Public that his new Hotel, erected on the site of the old stand, is now finished and completely furnished and ready for the reception of guests.

THE NORTH AMERICAN HOTEL is quite equal in all its arrangements to any first class hotel in any village in Canada.

A Good Yard and Stables attached to the premises.

All the Liquors are of the very best quality and brands.

☞ Fine Ale and Porter always on draught.

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DURHAM STREET, MADOC.

C. G. WILSON,

CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST

FOR SCHOOL BOOKS, STATIONERY AND CHILDREN'S BOOKS,

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WILSON'S DRUG STORE

DURHAM STREET, MADOC.

A. F. WOOD,

MARRIAGE LICENSE AGENT,

MADOC.

J. R. KETCHESON,

Township Clerk,

WILL be at the TOWN-HALL, MADOC, every SATURDAY, to attend to the business of the Township.

MADOC GRIST MILL,

A. F. WOOD, Manager.

A thoroughly Competent Miller in charge.

Mr. GREAM,

Solicitor and Attorney of the Chancery and Law of England)

Conveyancer, Coroner, &c.

JAMES FITZGERALD,

ATTORNEY AND CONVEYANCER,

MADOC.

A. B. ROSS & BROTHER,

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The Highest Price in Cash paid for Furs.

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ON HAND, CHEAP FOR CASH.

CASH Paid for HIDES and PELTS.

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C. E. RANKIN,

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Civil Engineer, &c.

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FOR SALE, OR TO LET.

THE HOUSE on the North side of KELLAR'S BAY. It is well adapted and situated for a

GENERAL STORE,

Being eight miles distant from the Village of Hastings, now Gravel Road to Tudor. Six Acres of Land attached.

For TERMS, inquire at the MERCURY Office.

MADOC MARKET PRICES.

SATURDAY, March 4, 18

ASHES	$4 50 ₱ cwt.
BARLEY	60 cents.
OATS	45 cents.
WHEAT	90 cents.
RYE	50 cents.
PEAS	60 cents.
HIDES	$3.
PORK	$12 ₱ bbl.
BUTTER	24 ₱ lb.
EGGS	6d.
HAY	$ ₱ ton.

BELLEVILLE MARKETS.

Fall Wheat, 1s. 8d. to 1s. 9d. Spring Wheat, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 4d. Rye, 1s. Barley, 1s. 4d for extra. Oats, 1s. 2d. to 1s. 3d. Peas, 1s. 6d to 1s. 7d. Hay—downward tendency. Butter very dull at 9d to 10d. Eggs, 9d.

A STRANGE STORY.

(*Continued.*)

Silently we left the room, I leaning on Goodenough's arm. He poured me out a glass of wine, that I gladly swallowed.

"Now tell me," said he, "who is this man, and how did you learn his history? How did you acquire such a strange power over him, the too sudden use of which I cannot but regret? And lastly, what induced you to come into the room in the strange way you did?" (for he had not seen me when I first entered.)

"As to his history I *know* nothing; but I am certain of it all. I *feel* I am not mistaken; and when I have told it to you, you will understand the rest."

"Good," said he, and left me. And for a long, long time I sat there dreaming of the past, as in a trance, with my eyes open.

And this, as follows, is what I told him the next day.

As a young man I was extremely fond of travelling; indeed I am so now, finding that any moral as well as physical health imparted by it; the bold wild scenery, I always frequent influences a healthier and more manly tone of thought. I can there take a more general view of things, and less disturbed by the intrusion of self. On one occasion I had even obtained my congé, though as yet undecided where to go—with what scenery I should brush off the cobwebs of dull routine. It was Saturday, and the Illustrated was put into my hands. In it was an account and some sketches of the opening of a railway from Gottenburg to Stockholm. This decided me, and I sailed by the next boat for Gottenburg. Of the kindness and hospitality of very one I became acquainted with in Sweden you have already heard me speak, and no doubt you remember my mentioning an English family; but I never told you how indelible they were impressed on my memory by after events. One evening, too, was strange. One night, going late to the opera,—in both it was not much, and I went only to see the ballet, in which two English figurantes appeared.—I was thrust into a box in which I found an elderly gentleman nodding in one corner and two pretty fresh-looking girls occupying the front. I ensconced myself in the unoccupied corner, and followed as I was able, the play. I don't remember much of it; but I soon found the place unbearably hot; and seeing the ladies vigorously fanning themselves, I ventured to ask, in my best French (for I was afraid to attempt Swedish) if they would like the door opened. "You answer him, Lucy," said one; "you speak Swedish better than I can." That was quite sufficient introduction for me then; and when the curtain fell we were acquaintances of long standing; and the father being awake, I was introduced to him. I assisted at the stowing, &c., preparatory to getting into the sleigh, and learnt that they lived within a few miles of Stockholm, where they had been staying for a few days; and I accepted an invitation to spend a couple of days, soon, at their house. They started, and I walked off to my hotel. In the supper-room I again met the father, and found he was staying in the same house with me. We supped together, and the day for my visit was fixed.

I drove out. If you have ever been in a sleigh, bright air, and tinkling sleigh-bells as we trotted along over the crisp snow, by the s it while later and dowy forests, with their ostrich plumes stretching out over you. If you have not seen the like, I cannot attempt to describe it. I had a hearty, [illegible] the veriest misanthrope would have enjoyed it. It was late when I arrived, and we soon sat down to dinner. I found the ladies had a yet keener appetite than were burning to emulate their Swedish sisters. The next morning was devoted to skating lessons, for I had been in Canada, and had of course learnt there.

In the evening we sat round the wood fire, and mamma told a ghost story, and I told some more, until at last it required more courage than the young ladies could muster to go into the dark landing and light the bedroom candles as they were so stowed to do after saying good night.

The next day was windy, and we spent the morning in the old tall-yard-room, a low, queer-shaped, oddly-lighted room. We walked out after lunch, and on returning I noticed a date cut on the stone lintel of the front door—1758 I think, three years more than a century since the house was built. When I was alone with the father, after dinner, I asked about it. When he took the house it had been uninhabited for many years; and though in a good situation in every way, both it and the grounds around it had a bad name. There was nothing definite; some old ghost story; and he got it cheap. There was some trouble about servants, certainly; they would not sleep in the house; but that was got over by their all sleeping on a small farm he had bought near.

Among other stories told that evening I repeated one of Edgar Poe's—"The Startling Effects of Mesmerism on a Dying Man." None of them had ever heard it before, and even the father seemed interested. There was a silence of many seconds when I concluded, and then a rush of conversation on kindred topics.

"Do you know, my dears, that we all are living in a haunted house?—or, rather, the house itself is not haunted, though the grounds are."

A little murmur of surprise, and each sat closer to the other.

"I dare say, my dears, you have heard your father say how very cheaply we have bought the property. No! Well, at any rate it is on that account. He learnt that many years ago—you remember the date over the door—an old gentleman came and settled here with two sons. They seem to have lived a quiet solitary life. The old man died. The eldest son, then of an age to shift for himself, realised as much money as he could, and disappeared. The old people about here will still talk of his wild daring and mad frolics. The other seems to have carefully tended the property, and married pretty enough. I suspect the orangerie and the little pier into the lake are of his building; and perhaps we owe the long shady avenue up to the house to his or his wife's taste; and no doubt the old summer-house overlooking the lake was a favourite resort of hers, as it is with us. One wild evening the brother returned, and was heartily welcomed once. Their life would hardly seem to have been quiet and happy as before, and yet his younger brother's sweet homely little wife would appear unwittingly to have gained too much of his admiration. One evening, apparently, the two men were in the oval-room alone, when high words soon followed by the deep short receipts of hate, rose; and then a few quick blows, and the sullen noise of fierce struggle. I can imagine the wife with clasped hands standing trembling at the foot of the winding stone stairs. The door above opened, and her husband, with pallid face, staggered down almost into her arms. "Hilda, Hilda, fetch or I will be worse for you than me." Scared more by the wild terror in his face and eyes than by his words, she fled to her room, hearing the front door blown violently to by the wind. But her womanly, wifely instinct roused her; and while preparing hurriedly to follow her husband, she heard a heavy measured tread above her. Listening, she heard her brother-in-law go to his room, come down, and go out. Follow him she must, and did. Guided by the lantern he carried, with whose dim flickerings in the snow were easily traced, she followed him round to the plantation behind the orangerie. There, with an oath, the light was dashed to the ground. Faint, and nipped to the marrow by the cruel cold, she sprang forward, until the report of a pistol rang through the night air, and with a wild, loving cry she fell to the earth, while the birds from the hemery, close by, soared from their nests, wheeled round and round, uttering hoarse querulous cries. She came to herself again when all was silent, and struggled home, with sensations as of a hand of ice on her heart. Not a soul was in the house. But at length her brother-in-law entered, flushed with liquor and stained with

[illegible] Sunday night,
The full moon bright,
And silence of the nightingale
Drew through the room sat, with [illegible]
Shaken from pudding-like plumes.

The great bird sang.
The fair light flung
Through casement on the gilded floor;
Bright as noonday, bright as noon,
Came blossom-lodge from the past.

And all do dreamed.
Old moonlight gemmed,
Till [illegible] I lay dreaming
Then [illegible] grew sweet at last,
Came blossom-lodge from the past.

Then a prayer and sleep,
Began to creep.
A dream upon me glimmering;
It deepened to a visioned noon,
[illegible] of the sea or moon.

Power sense and soul
The vision stole.
A strange pale splendour shimmering;
And I with one was walking slow
As in the world at long ago.

[illegible] my brain
With piercing pain.
It crushed my heart to pertaining.
I'm all dreamed it was a dream
And woke and saw the moonlight gleam,
And heard the bird—the nightingale.

VARIETIES.

Domestic music—the tea-kettle singing.

What best describes and most impedes a s[illegible]—Bunyan.

"I wonder," said a woman of humour, "[illegible] husband and I quarrel so often? for we agree [illegible] in one point—he wishes to be master, and [illegible]

"The Ohio" says one paper, "is a sickly [illegible]. Yes," replies another, "it is always confined [illegible]

A foreigner, speaking of the House of Co[illegible] says: "So difficult is it for anything to be h[illegible] side its gorgeous walls, that the impatient m[illegible] are continually calling out, 'Hear! hear! hear!'"

The British Parliament, as a general represe[illegible] by "knights citizens, and burgesses," has end[illegible] nearly six hundred years. It was summoned by [illegible] III., in 1265.

The Chatham (N. Y.) Courier states that a [illegible] man, living near Federal Stores, died recent[illegible] the effects of a bite from a mad dog, receiv[illegible] years ago.

It was lately stated, at a Bible association a[illegible] ary, that a calculation had been made respecti[illegible] proportionate value of the services of gentlem[illegible] ladies as collectors for charitable and religio[illegible] poses, when it was found that one lady is worth ten gentlemen and a half.

Prof. Huxley, in a recent discussion on cann[illegible] said that it is one of the most extensive prod[illegible] humanity, and that the first thing which ne[illegible] occurred to a man was not to love his neighbo[illegible] to eat him.

Sir L. McClintock, who has expressed his re[illegible] to give up the command of the *Aurora*, 35, one [illegible] finest ships in our Navy, in order to head [illegible] Arctic expedition, has spent seven winters [illegible] summers in the Polar regions.

A French priest, who had usually a very [illegible] congregation, was one day preaching at the [illegible] in his village, when the doors being open, a [illegible] and several geese came stalking up the aisle. [illegible] preacher, availing himself of the circumstan[illegible] proved that he could no longer find fault w[illegible] people of his district for non-attendance; he [illegible] though they did not come themselves, they [illegible] their representatives.

There are said to be 250,000 persons in the A[illegible] dominions entitled to the rank of nobles; but [illegible] nothing compared to Sicily. In that fortu[illegible] land there are 127 Princes, 48 Dukes, 140 Mar[illegible] 200 monks, and 10,000 nuns. No one ev[illegible] tempted to count the number of Barons, C[illegible] and Chevaliers.

THE MADOC MERCURY
AND NORTH RIDING NEWS.

MADOC, (HASTINGS CO., C.W.) SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 1865. PRICE TWO CENTS.

AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

...ham Lincoln was installed as President of ... States, for a second term of four years, ...gton, on Saturday, the 4th inst.—the oath ... office being administered to him by Chief ...ice. He immediately afterwards delivered ...ral address, which was very brief. He ...s progress of the war as reasonably satis... encouraging; and with hope for the fu... no prediction in regard to it. The rest ...arks alluded to slavery as the cause of the ...hich, he says, neither party expected the ... or duration which it has already attained, ...ng for an easier triumph, and "a result ...mental and astounding" than that "the conflict might cease, even before the con... should cease." He supposes the war may ... due to the offence of the 250 years of un...bondmen's toil, and that God may will that ...es till all the wealth so piled up may be ... He concludes by calling on his fellow-citizens ... to finish the work they are in, of binding up ...n's wounds, that they may achieve and cher...st and lasting peace among themselves and ...nations.

...n's actual whereabouts is still involved in ... but it appears tolerably clear that he has ...d forwards into North Carolina quite so ... was lately anticipated would be the case. ... of marching direct from Columbia upon ... a portion of his army is supposed to have ... back to Augusta, while the main body ... towards Wilmington, by way of Florence. ... movement towards the seacoast, it is con... that he was short of needed supplies, and ... he have done so, he has missed a great ... by in not following up Beauregard more ... the Confederates, who were a short time ...o great a panic to have successfully o... will now improve the breathing time they ...

The hope of a short, sharp and decisive ... now changed into the expectation that his ...vance will be a regular campaign, requiring ... its accomplishment.—The most contra... rumours as to Sherman's movements have ...culation. He was expected to form a junc... Schofield at Fayetteville, and it was in... had done so near Goldsboro. This would ... a united force of 60,000 men. But no ...oops had advanced in the direction of Fa... up to the 1st inst., and the Confederates ... Bragg are stated to have brought Sebo... bait ten or twelve miles from Wilmington. ...n Sherman is represented as moving to... high, the capital of the State, leaving John... ...es in his rear—Hood and Hardee having ...ff from uniting with Johnston. Other re... that Sherman is about forty miles from ... and rapidly advancing, while Southern ac... ...y he is stuck somewhere in the mud. The ...y as to the facts of the case is increased by ... the capture of Sherman and his staff in the ... Columbia, which are, however, believed ...

...s quite as much contradiction as to the cause ...ruing of Columbia—Northern accounts re... it as deliberately done in retaliation for ...derates' treacherously firing upon the Federals after the city was surrendered to them; and another story being to the effect that the destruction was the deliberate act of the Confederates themselves. Gen. Wade Hampton is said to have fired his own house before he left the place. If so, he probably regretted he had been so hasty, when he returned to take possession of the city again.

Gen. Lee appears to have paid a visit to North Carolina, and to have made preparations for resisting Sherman at Greensboro, if he attempts to come north by way of Charlotte, and at Kingston and Goldsboro, if he approaches from Wilmington.

With a view to prevent Lee having leisure to attend exclusively to Sherman, and also perhaps to expedite the anticipated evacuation of Richmond, Gen. Sherman moved from Winchester down the Shenandoah valley on Monday of last week, and on the following Thursday, according to the reports of deserters, defeated and captured Gen. Early and his entire force of 1,800 men, between Staunton and Charlottesville. Four brigades, it was ascertained, had been sent from Richmond for the defence of Lynchburg.

Gov. Fenton, of New York, has telegraphed to Major Grant, of Oswego, that the War Department of Washington have received information from Halifax that the Confederates in the Provinces are contemplating a raid on Oswego and Rochester.—A Buffalo paper says the Confederate emissaries in Canada have left the Province in obedience to instructions from Jeff Davis, so that they may take part in the last grand rally of the military power of the Confederacy, which is about to abandon Richmond, and make its headquarters somewhere in Southern Kentucky or East Tennessee. The Courier says it is certain the emissaries have departed southwards, though it has no information how they obtained passports or managed to get across the lines.

Defences of Canada.

A letter from Lieut.-Col. Jervois, the deputy director of fortifications, to the Secretary for War, on the defence of Canada has been presented to Parliament, and was published in London on the 14th ult. In the course of a long and elaborate paper Col. Jervois advocates the fortification of Quebec, Montreal, Kingston, Toronto, and Hamilton as points which, if supported by the militia and volunteers, and a proper provision of gunboats on the lakes, would suffice to hold the frontier during the entire period (only about six months in the year) when military operations on a large scale could be carried on. The cost of these fortifications and their armament he estimates at £1 350,000.

The second half of the letter deals with the condition of the local forces of Canada. It appears the volunteer militia number only 21,700 men, who are spoken of as very efficient, but the estimated number of militiamen of all ranks, inclusive of the reserve men between 45 and 60 years of age, is 470,000. To render these of use it is proposed to provide a staff of educated officers and to encourage the local forces by quartering imperial troops amongst them.

In concluding his letter Col. Jervois urges strongly the necessity of fortifications for the defence of the important parts of the country, and as rallying points to which the local forces may be brought to act in conjunction with the regular troops.

Arrival of the Canada.

The steamship Canada, from Liverpool on the 18th, via Queenstown on the 19th inst., arrived at Halifax on the 3rd inst.

GREAT BRITAIN.—In the House of Commons, on the 17th, Mr. Layard, in response to Mr. Watkin, bore testimony to the zeal, tact, discretion and ability with which Lord Lyons has discharged his duties at Washington. In no one of the many thousand cases had he failed to obtain the hi... government, and his duties had ... that in one year his despatches ... umes. Under such circumstances ... ing that his health had broken down ... sent the government forebore to p... whether he would return to Washing... the meantime Mr. Beverly Hume was ... most satisfactorily discharging the duties of the em... bassy.

Mr. Watkin complained that the go... ernment was allowing the Reciprocity treaty to be se... t aside without the slightest attempt to avert it by n... egotiations. He complained that an intercepted lette... had been published without explanation, stating that ... President Lincoln had himself signed the order for ... breaking the blockade at Mobile, and that too while t... he American ambassador was complaining of British a... bjects doing so. He moved for the papers. Mr. L... ayard said there were no papers to produce.

The Index says that 715 American ships have ... been transferred to the British registry since the co... mmencement of the war.

FRANCE.—A treaty of commerce has been signed between France and Sweden.

The absence of any allusion to America in the Emperor's speech to the legislature attracts attention in England.

The cession of certain provinces in Mexico to France had been discussed in the French Privy Council. The project was advocated by the Duke de Morney, supported by M. Fould, but Drouyn de L'Huys objected on account of a possible war with the United States, and the Emperor ultimately agreed with him.

ITALY.—A Turin telegram says great uneasiness prevailed there. It was rumoured that Mazzini was at the bottom of the agitation.

The eruption of Vesuvius was increasing. No damage had yet occurred. That of Etna was diminished.

AUSTRIA.—It is stated that proposals for a further considerable reduction of the Austrian army, especially in Italy, had been submitted to the Emperor for approval.

BRAZIL.—Additional details state that the city of Payssandee was taken by the Brazilians after a sanguinary conflict lasting 5½ hours. The Brazilian army was marching on Monte Video. The Banda Oriental government was about to send a commission to Europe to solicit the mediation of France on the Brazil question.

CARDINAL WISEMAN.—By the death of Cardinal Wiseman, which event took place on the 15th of February, the Roman Catholic Church has lost one of its most learned and esteemed prelates. The late Cardinal was born at Sevilla, Spain, where his father, an Englishman, was engaged in business. After having completed his studies in England and in Rome, he was, in 1827, appointed professor of oriental languages in the Roman University. He returned to England in 1835, and in 1840 he was made bishop and appointed coadjutor to Dr. Walsh of the midland district. In 1849, he succeeded Dr. Walsh as vicar apostolic of the London district. When the Pope, in 1850, restored the English hierarchy, Dr. Wiseman was appointed Archbishop of Westminster, and raised to the dignity of Cardinal. By his circumspect conduct he did much towards allaying the violent opposition which the restoration by the Pope of English hierarchy, produced in England. Dr. Wiseman was a very prolific writer. The most important of his works are his "Lectures on Science and Revealed Religion," designed to reconcile some difficulties between the two which recent scientific researches claimed to have discovered, and a volume of personal reminiscences, entitled "Recollections of the Last Four Popes," which appeared in 1858.

MR. DUNKIN'S TEMPERANCE BILL.—The Township of Thurlow has taken the lead in Hastings County, in prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquor—by retail. The by-law to that effect was carried, last week, by a majority of 21 votes.

THE MADOC MERCURY

AND NORTH RIDING NEWS.

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☞ SUBSCRIPTIONS PAYABLE YEARLY OR QUARTERLY IN ADVANCE.

By AMERICAN WAR NEWS.—Late Northern accounts *state* say that Sherman has crossed the Cape Fear River *sixty* miles above Wilmington, thereby compelling the Confederates to evacuate Florence, which had been entered by the Federal cavalry, who were destroying the railroad. This movement is said to have spoilt the Confederate plans for effecting a concentration against him, and forcing him to give battle in the vicinity of Goldsboro, where they expected a combination of advantages in their favour, which would insure his defeat.—From this it is evident that Sherman is now avoiding, instead of pursuing the Confederates, although it was rumoured in the army of the Potomac that he had defeated Johnston, and captured 15,000 prisoners.

President Davis and some of his cabinet are said said to favour the evacuation of Richmond; but Gen. Lee and the military authorities believe it can be defended to the last, and they mean to do it. "Druid," of the N. Y. *World*, says that the apparent preparations for the evacuation of Petersburg are mere strategems to deceive Grant—whose plans for a combined movement, in conjunction with Sherman, have been again foiled. The same correspondent says another invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania is threatened, and that unusual a rm has pervaded Washington within the last few days, for fear of a sudden dash of Confederate cavalry into the capital. As if the forts and troops already around it were not sufficient for its protection, additional barricades have been put up. By threatening movements at distant points, and the necessity of garrisoning the captured cities of the South, Grant's available forces for attack are nearly reduced to an equality with those Lee has for the defence of Richmond.

A man named Clements is in jail at Washington, charged with having had had his plans prepared for the assassination of President Lincoln on the inauguration day.

The draft is to be commenced in New York on the 15th inst., volunteers, in spite of high bounties, having again become scarce.

Gen. Early's defeat is said to be confirmed, but the report of his capture is denied.

THE MADOC MERCURY

AND NORTH RIDING NEWS.

MADOC, SATURDAY, MARCH 11.

☞ *To Subscribers*—The present Number commences the Tenth Quarter.

☞ *R. M. Marmora.*—Your communication has been received, but as it is only a reiteration of the remarks already made on the subject referred to its publication will scarcely help the cause you advocate.

CONFEDERATION AND A "CRISIS."

The Quebec scheme of Confederation, which was heralded into the world with such a grand flourish of trumpets, seems likely after all to die a natural death. New Brunswick, at least, where the people have been appealed to, will have nothing to do with it in its present shape, the principal supporters of the scheme there, including Mr. Tilley (the Premier), Mr. Steadman (Postmaster-General) and Col. Gray and Mr. Fisher, two of the delegates to the Conference, having been defeated at the polls. With the exception of Newfoundland, the other Maritime Provinces show even greater unwillingness to enter a Confederation of which Canada forms a part—the reasons assigned, among others, being that they wish to take no share in either our sectional or financial embarrassments, or to have anything to do with men of such proverbial bad faith and low standard of political morality, as our statesmen are by their own accounts of one another! They look with contempt upon a Government which avows that it is prepared to bestow its patronage upon those journals which supported the great scheme—and upon them alone, and on the terms dictated, of no amendments, no criticism of details, no appeal to the people!

Our Coalition Government, however, are bent upon forcing their pet scheme through, and it is to be regretted, in a way that goes far to justify the charges of want of good faith on their part.

Now that petitions against the scheme are being presented to Parliament, the Government have, while pretending they do not want "to shut down the floodgates of discussion," determined to bring the debate to a close, Mr. John A. Macdonald on Tuesday moving the "previous question"—the effect of which is to preclude all amendments; and when the previous question is carried, the main question must be put without debate. This the opponents of the scheme indignantly denounce as a breach of the understanding at the commencement of the debate, that amendments might be moved.

The excuse offered for this high-handed proceeding is, that it is to prevent "factious" amendments being moved, and also that it is necessary some members of the administration should proceed to England at this "crisis," to arrange with the Home Government about the share Canada is to bear of the expense of defending the Province: the Attorney-General West, however, notwithstanding the sudden urgency of this convenient crisis, distinctly refusing to give the House any information about the negotiations which have been carried on on this point.

The intention of the Government, as soon as they have carried the Confederation Address, is to ask a vote of credit from the House, and prorogue Parliament on the earliest day thereafter. They thus contrive to put off the evil day of bringing in the plan for a federal union of the Canadas, which was the alternative promised in case the great scheme should not be carried into effect—and keep themselves in office a little longer. But some time or other another general election must come, and then the people will have a chance to show whether they approve of this style of government, and the present despotic system of dealing with their rights and liberties. As matters are going, there is a fair prospect of a split between the Conservative leaders and some of their old supporters, which will not be without its effect upon the country at large.

The petitions against Confederation are treated by Government as bogus, and no fair expression of public opinion, because the signatures are o[btained] the request of opponents of the scheme.

The Marmora and Belleville Rai[lway]

The *Independent* courteously explains the remarked the farmers of Hastings were in erished a condition, at present, to embark tation to the people of Hastings to arouse on behalf of the construction of the propos from Belleville to Marmora, and says:—

"What we mean and desire to impress people of Hastings is this, that they can ail in ensuring the construction of the rail out being obliged to subscribe one penny cost, or to take a single share in its stock. them show that they are aware of the bene derived from it, and that they are prepared themselves of the facilities which it will affo conveyance of their produce to mark—it will be brought to view the scheme with fa may be induced to invest their money in while if they continue to exhibit the same indifference towards it which they have shown, moneyed men will say, 'There is no ment to invest in this Railroad, for it is evi the class of people who would be most bene it do not desire it to be made.' And of cou would refrain from investing their money in rities."

If all that is required of the inhabitants of tion of the County is a readiness to avail the of the advantages of a railroad, when it is think that the promoters of the present sche safely "go-ahead" at once. The unwilling thereto shown in this neighbourhood to stir in ter, so far as we can judge, from occasional we have heard from those upon whom we have voured to urge the necessity of a railroad as towards developing the resources of the back had its origin chiefly in the following objects

1st. That the former proposition for a railr Belleville to Marmora, either direct or by the the Moira, contemplated the pledge of the the county for at least a portion of the needf to the extent of about a quarter of a million involving the certainty of a large and op amount of additional taxation—from the exp of which the civil engineers and other paid of the Company might reasonably expect so fat pickings, while the profits of the shareho king the experience of other railway compa consideration, would probably be just nothi

2nd. That the merchants and mechanics feared that a railroad, instead of bringing bu would have the effect of taking it from the the termini at Belleville and Marmora.

If it be true—but we do not affirm that that a majority of the business men of Ma took such a short-sighted view of the que the construction of the road would have pu amount of money in circulation here) the pr pression will have a tendency to convince at least they could not be worse off, with connecting them with the front as well as country, and that improved means of comm afford the best chance of bringing about a prosperity. The matter is one of equal im the people of Belleville, for that town will be see yet worse times than even now, if the persons leaving these parts to seek their fo in some more favoured locality, continue longer at the rate they are doing so at pres

We are glad to see that the arguments ju advanced by all our Belleville contemporar the necessity of making a move in the mat taken effect at last; and that upon the requ some of the leading men there, the Mayor h a public meeting to take into consideration way question, and to take steps to secure G aid in developing the mineral resources of the

If it will pay to carry sawn lumber and b

...ethern part of the State of New York. ...reason to doubt that without refer... ...lead, and copper mines of North ...ay through this county, if construct... ...ed to economy, will prove a good in... ...time will come when the Grand Trunk ...to this section for its supply of fuel; ...nce constructed will be pretty sure to ...of local traffic which now lie dor...

RECRUITING IN MADOC.—There has been ...talk for some time past, about Federal ...this country, but we were not aware till ...recruiting agents had penetrated so ... We are informed, however, that a ... who formerly resided in Madoc, but ... time past been living a rather fast life ...side, made her appearance here the ... has just left, taking with her a bright ...appears to have a longing for military ..., which will probably be amply satisfied ...again treads Canadian soil. It is strange ...should be found so delightfully green as to ...themselves to be taken to the other side to be ...like cattle; but one good result of the Yankee ...dulge-hunting here, will be to rid the country of ...number of persons of extremely weak intellect.

LIBERAL OFFER.—We learn from Mr. Agar, Lo... Superintendent of Education, that Hon Billa... ...proposes to give $10, to be distributed in prizes ...the common schools, to each township in the ...Division, on condition that the respective Mu... ...cils will grant an equal sum for the same

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...to regret to hear that Mr. Henry ...resident of Madoc, lately met with a ...ent. He was crossing the railroad bridge ...and not noticing that a plank had been ...fell through the opening, and broke all ...on one side. He managed to creep to the ...attract the attention of some one passing ...was removed to his residence, where he ...by Dr. Lester.

From Europe.

...er City of Baltimore arrived at New ...6th inst.

...de la Loire denies the statement that the ...government had sent any war vessels in pur... ...Confederate steam-ram Stonewall, and ...Cabinet of the Tuileries does not consi... ...possesses the right to pursue the steam... ...slave States, though by completing her ...a French waters she committed an audacious ...on of our neutrality.

...use of Lords there was an important de... ...defences of Canada. Lord Lyveden ...tion to the matter, and pointed out the ...ng of the Americans, and urged immediate ...res for the defence of the Province. ...rey and Ripon admitted the importance ...ion, but regretted that any doubt should ...d of the conciliatory intentions of the ...overnment. The Government would ask ...50,000 for the defences of Quebec, which ...ns would undertake for the defence of ...d westward.

...by thought the position of the Govern... ...miliating. When the question of peace ...nded on an excitable populace with strong ...against England, he strongly censured the ...t for having so long delayed the defences. ...ed the smallness of the vote asked.

...sell regretted the discussion, and stated ...overnment declined to make any move... ...the Canadians declined to take measures ...; but as they now display a different dis... ...e Government comes forward to assist.

...ve debate caused a depression in the funds ...ght fall in consols and has produced the ...e which makes the Coalition so anxious ...ue Parliament, and send some of its mem... ...bers on a pleasure trip to England, at the expense of the Province.

Mutual explanations have taken place between the Governments of Great Britain and the United States, which have resulted in a rescinding of the passport order of the 17th of December, so far as relates to the province of Canada, and in an understanding that under present circumstances and notwithstanding the notice lately given in that respect, the naval force of the United States upon the upper lakes shall be the same which was stipulated by the treaty of April, 1817.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

LIST OF LETTERS

Remaining in Madoc Post Office up to February 28, 1865.

Brown, Jas & John	Ketcheson, Mrs P
Brown, D C	Louis, Isiah
Bradshaw, Jeptha	Lyle, Robert
Breakenridge, Jas	Mc Guire, James
Brown, Wm	Mc Coy, Wm J
Chisholm, M	Murphy, Patrick
Creage, Samuel	Macbeth, William
Coons, Miss M E	Martin, Jessie
Dalmage, Samuel	Monroe, L
Dickens, Wm	Mc Goffa, Mrs
Dowd, C P	Martin, Samuel
Eager, Mrs Elizabeth	Mooney, Wm H
Fitzpatrick, John	Nelson, Mr A
Fitzpatrick, John	Pollock, John
Fitzpatrick, John	Pelow, Louis
Fox, Miss Jenny	Rusaw, Miss Margaret
Fife, James	Raspberry, Mary
Friss, Mr G	Stackpole Augustus
Hannah, J W	St Charles, John
Hulin, James	St Charles, Johnny
Hulin, Mary	Stefrow, James
Hemstreet, Samuel	Vancleck, Peter
Hannon, Mrs Wm	Wannamaker, J H
Howe, Simon	Wannemaker, J H

A. F. WOOD, *Postmaster.*

MADOC HOUSE.

WOOD & BREAKELL,

General Merchants,

Are Paying the HIGHEST PRICE in CASH for any Quantity of

Wheat, Rye, Barley, Oats, and Peas.

FLOUR for Sale, fresh ground and in Barrels.

August 17, 1864.

FARM TO LET.

THE FARM, containing 200 acres, Lot No. 9, in the 9th Concession of Huntingdon, with extensive buildings, known as

"The Old Francis Place."

Rent moderate.

This Farm is on the County gravel road from Belleville to MADOC, Five Miles from the latter place, where there is a cash market for produce. Apply to

ROMEO H. STEPHENS, Montreal, or
M. P. HAYES, Madoc.

April 16, 1864.

NORTH HASTINGS.

JOB PRINTING

OF EVERY DESCRIPTION
Executed at the

"MERCURY"

OFFICE, MADOC,
(The Only Printing Establishment in the North Riding,)
With Neatness and Dispatch.

SUPPORT THE LOCAL INSTITUTIONS!!

North American Hotel, Madoc.

W. HUDGINS

RESPECTFULLY informs the Public that his new Hotel, erected on the site of the old stand, is now finished and completely furnished and ready for the reception of guests.

THE NORTH AMERICAN HOTEL is quite equal in all its arrangements to any first class hotel in any village in Canada.

A Good Yard and Stabling attached to the premises.

All the Liquors are of the very best quality and brands.

☞ First Ale and Porter always on draught.

MEDICAL HALL.

DURHAM STREET, MADOC.

C. G. WILSON,

CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST.

FOR SCHOOL BOOKS, STATIONERY, AND CHILDREN'S BOOKS,

At Publishers' Prices, Call At

WILSON'S DRUG STORE,

DURHAM STREET, MADOC.

A. F. WOOD,

MARRIAGE LICENSE AGENT,
MADOC.

J. R. KETCHESON,

Township Clerk,

WILL be at the TOWN-HALL, MADOC, every SATURDAY, to attend to the business of the Township.

MADOC GRIST MILL,

A. F. WOOD, Madoc.

A thoroughly Competent Miller in charge.

MR. GREAM,

(Solicitor and Attorney of the Chancery and Law Courts of England)

Conveyancer, Coroner, &c.

JAMES FITZGERALD,

ATTORNEY AND CONVEYANCER

MADOC.

A. B. ROSS & BROTHER,

GENERAL MERCHANTS,

The Highest Price in Cash paid for Potash

A. B. ROSS. S. D. ROSS.

Best Spanish Sole Leather

ON HAND, CHEAP FOR CASH.

CASH Paid for HIDES and PELTS by

SYLVANUS MULLETT.

C. E. RANKIN,

Provincial Land Surveyor,
Civil Engineer, &c.

OFFICE, Hudgins' Hotel, Madoc.

FOR SALE, OR TO LET,

THE HOUSE on the North side of KELLAR'S BRIDGE. It is well adapted and situated for a

GENERAL STORE,

Being eight miles distant from the Village of Hastings, on the new Gravel Road to Tudor. Six Acres of Land attached.

For TERMS, inquire at the MERCURY Office.

MADOC MARKET PRICES.

SATURDAY, March 11, 1865.

ASHES	$4 50 ₱ cwt.
BARLEY	60 cents.
OATS	45 cents.
WHEAT	90 cents.
RYE	50 cents.
PEAS	60 cents.
HIDES	$9.
PORK	$12 ₱ bbl.
BUTTER	9d ₱ lb.
EGGS	6d.
HAY	$ ₱ ton.

BELLEVILLE MARKETS.

Fall Wheat, 5s. 6d. 5s. 3d. Spring Wheat, 4s 9d 5s 0d.
Rye, 3s. Barley, 3s 3d 3s 6d. Oats, 2s 3d 2s 6d.
Peas, 3s 9d 3s 9d. Butter 9d. Eggs, 10d. Hides, firm at 15s 16s. Pelts, steady at 6s 9d for green. Wool, 1s 11d. Potatoes 2s. 6d.

FROST WORK.

These crystal pencilings upon the pane!
This frosted m xture sparkling in the light!
Touches of magic art without a stain
Of earthly colouring: how pure and white!

Such strange designs! yet true to all the rules
That influence leashes in each separate part,
Artistic, yet confound ng all the schools
Of old or modern masters in the art.

Landscape and mountain, woodland, rocks and cave,
The stately palace with its fairy queen,
The distant toll caress ing on the wave,
All blended in a wild fantastic scene.

The frailest things on earth are ever fairest,
The loveliest flower will soonest droop and waste,
And this bright gem, of all bright gems the rarest,
Will soon dissolve in drops of falling rain.

A STRANGE STORY.

(Concluded.)

It could not have been long before I was aroused by a tapping at the door, and I recognised my host-ess's voice. "Look out of window," she said, "towards the orangerie; the light is there as we have always heard it described. I thought you would not believe us unless you saw it for yourself," she added, half apologetically. I looked, and saw in the direction she mentioned a clear, round light, seemingly as bright and vivid as a powerful reading lamp. It appeared to be only a foot or two above the ground, and always remaining near the same spot, rose and sank gently swaying about, quite unaffected by the wind breeze still blowing.

I dressed hurriedly with a strong sense of excited curiosity, and yet quite on the *qui vive* for a practical joke or other imposition. Leaving my room, I announced to Mrs. Clayton my intention of going up to the light. She did her utmost to dissuade me; but I strapped up well and sallied out, with only a stout walking stick in my hand. The wind was blowing in fitful gusts, and the trees, all dark and sombre, were stripped of their snowy plumes. Across the sky sailed wild dishevelled clouds, from behind which the moon uncertainly shone out. Passing the angle of the house, I saw the clear, full, powerful light in its usual place, a long way ahead. Slowly crossing the open ground behind the orangerie, I endeavoured to concentrate my mind on the effort it had to make (for the wild night had swept away all idea of practical joking), but the story I had just heard came vividly upon my mind. I *believed* it. I imagined how he, how she had crossed this open plot once before, and as I did so I felt that sense of a presence near me that made my temples throb. I shall ever believe that I saw the shadowy outline of a crouching female form near me, passing with abrupt and unequal steps towards the plantation. Suddenly stretching forth its arms it sank forward, disappearing as does a snow-wreath when blown away, and the light ahead surged upwards, red and angry. You know my theory on so-called supernatural appearances. Recalling them to my mind, buckling on as it were a mental armour, I approached and entered the dark belt of trees, all my attention being given to the light, which now seemed to rise higher than ever, diffusing itself as it did so into a luminous vapour that seemed drifting slowly toward me. I still advanced, though as it neared me a scorching chill reached the very marrow of my bones: while my temples throbbed feverishly. The dim vapour surging round and round, still spreading more and more, seemed to assume the misty outline of a human form; while from the thicker mist at its summit, I thought, glared down on me two eyes—two eyes so cruel and malevolent, so full of hate and deadly purpose, that my very reason told me that here was a *living* agency—most cruel and murderous, certainly, powerful, no doubt—against which as strenuous a resistance was necessary as though it were in flesh and blood. One faltering retrograde step I felt would be my last. To become a living resistance, to oppose this deadly hate, was my only course. Hardly had these thoughts clearly formed themselves in my brain when the faint outline of the figure before me lost its clearness, and the misty cloud surged round, drifting yet nearer down upon me. It surrounded me; I was enveloped in its hazy folds; and the cruel eyes appeared at times close to mine, and then again far off. A clearer patch, where some young trees were growing further on in the wood, appeared to me now like a haven of safety, as the moonlight fitfully streamed down upon it. Towards it I turned. As though my thoughts of escape were divined, the form again assumed its distinctness, and barred my passage. With my knees trembling, and pulse leaping wildly, I stepped out in its direction. As I approached the dim form, I experienced a soft but firm opposition to my progress. Astounded by this new proof of *living* power, my knees knocked together, and involuntarily I stretched forth my hands. They seemed taken in a cold, firm grasp, and the stick was slowly wrenched from my hand. With all my physical strength failing I still pressed on, conscious of being as yet master of my own will. And then those cruel eyes, sinking down to a level with mine, floated close up to me, and I felt a soft, cold touch upon my throat that momentarily seemed to tighten. With one wild effort I cried, "This is *not* fear; the body quivers, but my mind is firm!" The grasp tightened on my throat, and the air became clear about me. And with my knees knocking together, I staggered forward into the clear moonlight, and sank for a time exhausted on the snow.

I do not think I can have lain there long before I recovered and went towards the house. The mental struggle over, the breezy night seemed fresh and pleasant to my fevered head; and when I met my anxious host and his wife I was able to tell them, with a tolerable assumption of calmness, that I had certainly seen something strange, but nothing that need alarm them; and, evading their curious questions, I returned soon to my room. I found the next morning that such a visible corroboration of their mother's story as the light gave, and which most of them had seen, had rather alarmed the younger, and very much astonished the elder part of the family. My account of it, therefore, was looked for with a great deal of interest. It must have been an unsatisfactory one, for, divested of my own sensations, and so I treated it as far as possible, there was little or nothing to tell; indeed, the crouching phantom of the woman seemed to them the most terrible part of the affair.

In clear daylight I visited the ground again, following my nearly-obliterated footsteps in the snow. I found that the clear patch of moonlight in the middle of the fir trees, that I had so anxiously struggled towards, was but a little space, on which grew a few young birch trees. Mr. Clay on mentioned that wherever there was a clear space in the pine forest birch trees sprang up, and in a birch wood pine trees always shot up. The bare arms of the young trees had allowed the blessed moonlight to streams down, and form, as it had done for me, such a haven of rest. I remembered that it must have been on the hither side of this space that I first saw the light, and there, too, was a large space of clear snow. Placing myself on it, I experienced a slight tremor of the sensations I had experienced on the past night. You have heard me say perhaps that I believe no mortal will, however powerful and inexorable, can exert itself at a distance without some tangible material object that may serve it (I hardly know how to explain my idea) as a starting-point, as a fulcrum for its lever. I scrutinised everything around me closely, but could find no sign, though my own sensations told me I was not mistaken. I explained more fully to Mr. C. my ideas on the subject, and asked leave to lay bare, and, if I thought necessary, to dig the ground I was standing on. He had no objection whatever. The farm-servant who brought down the tools in the afternoon hardly seemed to like the job; but I set the example, and he soon followed it. After some pretty severe labour, we got through the frozen crust into the soft earth, and then the man got out of the hole, and declared that he could not—he didn't know why—work any longer; and as I stepped down into his place, and felt a chill sensation of fear creep over me, I did not wonder. A few hearty blows at the soil dispelled the feeling, and I presently turned up a scrap of leather that had evidently formed part of a shoe or boot. My host, who I imagine had looked on in astonishment at my proceedings, and rather permitted than joined in them, now himself became interested. Other and stranger things were soon brought to light, and before long we were all three working hard in the rapidly-increasing hole. In less than an hour we exposed the remains of a perfect human skeleton; and on clearing away the stringy fibre of roots that had interlaced themselves over it, we found a bullet still jammed over one of the little projections of the back bone. As we lifted out the skeleton piecemeal, buttons and buckles were found under it, proving, too clearly its hurried burial. And alongside it, still close by its bony arm, was the broken butt of a cue, of a hard, heavy wood, in which the lozenge-shaped pieces of mother-of-pearl, with which it was ornamented, still kept their places.

You can understand now, my friend, the train of thought that led me to enter, as I did, that man's room last night.

I proposed to Mr. Clayton to report the finding of the skeleton, bearing such marks as it did of a violent death, to the police authorities; but the expense and trouble this might have entailed no doubt prevented its being done. At any rate, the remains were reinterred in the same spot, and their position was simply marked by a wooden cross. [illegible] very soon after, but kept up for so[me] spondence with the family; and [I] her being told on two or three diff[erent] the re-appearance of the mysterious about the same date. And indeed [we] of the connection between your fat[her] and though I have heard nothing from the Claytons, I will write to th[em] chance of some of the family being we may, perchance, thus hear some upon the subject.

VARIETIES.

The dress circle—the crinoline ski[rt].

When is a young man of the great[est] per party?—When he's a spoon.

Somebody says that the cream u[p] only article that has not risen of late.

Men, like bullets, go farthest, smoothest.

Wealth is not modest; the face of blushes.

Riches are given to make life pa[ss] but life is not given only to amass rich[es].

Some poet says the wind kisses the we suppose, is the celebrated "kiss f[rom] which we have heard so much.

The following announcement appe[ars] of a butterman:—"Fresh sausages eve[ry] good supply always on hand."

A physician prescribing to a sick m[an] minds me of a child snuffing a candle—one but he snuffs it out.

It was told Lord Chesterfield that [a] termagant and scold, was married to a g[ay] which his lordship said; that cards a[lone] made the best matches.

"Oh, Mr. Grubbles!" exclaim[ed] "shouldn't you like to have a fa[ce] about your knee?"—"No, ma'am able old bachelor; "I'd rather boys in my pocket."

It is said that all the Chinamen, who California to seek their fortunes, come u[p] to return to China, dead or alive. He that cargoes of their dead bodies are annu back to China.

The largest carpet manufactory in the of Crossley & Sons, at Halifax, England, has a capital of one million six hundr[ed] thousand pounds sterling, and employs four hundred work-people.

The value of a tract of land on Oil Cr[eek] county, Pennsylvania, two miles in width miles long, is estimated at two hundred millions of dollars. Four years ago this land worth five dollars an acre.

A steam yacht, which is but 42ft. l[ong] broad, has been built in the Thames, and plete with double-screw engines, for Lo[rd] get, M. P. She is constructed wholly of scription of Bessemer steel, only 8-16th in thickness.

An elderly lady, telling her age, remar[ked] born on the 23rd of April. Her husb[and] present, observed, "I always thought yo[u] on the 1st of April."—"People might w[ell] responded the lady, "in the choice I m[ade] band!"

A jury in Onondaga county, N. Y., h[ave] value of a pet crow at $75. The crow w[as] ly tamed, and could articulate several w[ords] others it would sing out "Old Bob Crou[se]" loud tone of voice. For this offence Crouse hired a boy to wring the neck and the owner brought an action for dam[ages].

Fletcher, Bishop of Nismes, was the s[on] low-chandler. A proud duke once end[eavoured] mortify the prelate by saying, at the le[vee] smelt of tallow; to which the bishop r[eplied] lord, I am the son of a tallow-chandler, b[ut] if your lordship had been the same, you remained a tallow chandler all your life."

Dr. Busby, whose figure was beneath [the] size, was one day accosted in a public co[ffee] an Irish baronet of colossal stature wi[th] pass to my rent, O giant?" when the doc[tor] making way, replied, "Pass, O pigmy!"—[to] said the baronet, "my expression alluded [to] of your intellect."—"And mine to your doctor.

THE MADOC MERCURY
AND NORTH RIDING NEWS.

MADOC, (HASTINGS CO., C.W.,) SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 1865. PRICE TWO CENTS.

...ERICAN REVOLUTION.

...Waynesboro, which formed part ... down the Shenandoah valley, ... was defeated, the Confederates, ... in the war, are said to have been ...nic. They fired but one volley ...ing force under Gen. Custer, and ... flock of sheep. Their attempt at es... as the Federals were so superior ... able to surround nearly the entire ... no attempt to rally his men, but ... fleet horse, attended by an orderly. ... almost a bloodless one to the Fede... but ten or twelve killed and wounded. ... papers said to have been found in ..., was a letter from Jeff Davis, in reply ... the soldiers to have the war brought ..., and they had fought four years and accom... nothing. Davis's answer is characteristic— ... expresses the hope that it does not repre... a majority of the men.—The nu... among the Confederate troops are ... their pay having been withheld. Dis... not actual demoralization, has also ... the army by rumours that senatorial ... been attempting to urge on Davis ...sion. The Richmond Examiner ad... are some whipped seceders in the ... in the event of their compelling ... Gen. Lee, with the consent of the ..., will seize upon power for the safety ... his country's liberty and indepen...

...ades, however, though reported com... in the valley, have rallied again... reports an attempt made by Gen. ... to capture the prisoners who were being ...ter. The Federal guard was twice ...mpelled to retire in haste, abandon... ...nces and the only piece of artillery ..., enabling a good many of the captured ... escape.

...Sheridan's report of his movements, it ... he did not, as anticipated, move direct upon ..., but struck across the country southeast... ...directly of Richmond, and on the 10th ..., a point nearly in the centre of the ... the two lines of railway connecting ... the capital. Pursuing his former ...tion, he sent out parties to destroy ...dise, mills, factories, and bridges ...d by his account communication by ... Lynchburg and Richmond, in the ...f the former place and Gordonsville, ... present effectually interrupted; and ...has been the main feeder of the Con... has been so much damaged as to be ...

Sheridan had met with no opposi... being bewildered by his movements. ... been delayed by the horrible con...ds from incessant rain.—The Rich... that Lynchburg is all safe. If Lee ...ting a retreat to that point, as the ...ntinue to allege, it is difficult to see ...mplish it, if Sheridan has a sufficient ...in his present position. Threatening ... would be if all goes well with Sher...ove dangerous to Sheridan if Lee can contrive to hold the Federals in North Carolina in check much longer.

Notwithstanding recent disasters, the Richmond papers of the 13th are rejoicing that matters are beginning to look decidedly the better for the South, as in the last three days they have had news of two victories, one in North Carolina, and the other in South Carolina.—The first was a battle four miles from Kinston, where Gen. Bragg attacked a Federal force advancing from Newbern against Goldsboro. The Federals disputed the ground obstinately, and took up a new position three miles from the first, after losing three pieces of artillery and 1,500 prisoners, and leaving a large number of dead and wounded on the field. The Confederate loss was comparatively small. The Northern papers try to belittle the affair, by saying the force attacked must have been only a construction party, who were reopening the Atlantic and North Carolina railroad, accompanied by a small force as a guard. Northern accounts also state that Bragg in a subsequent attack was repulsed severely in two separate assaults.—The second victory was the defeat of the Federal General Kilpatrick, by General Wade Hampton, who drove him from his camp, taking his guns, wagons, and several hundred prisoners, besides releasing a number of Confederate prisoners. The locality of this fight is not officially mentioned, for prudential reasons, lest Grant should get information of Sherman's progress.

Nothing is yet definitely known of Sherman's present position. All that seems certain is that he has not effected a junction with the Federal troops already in North Carolina; and it seems probable that at the time he was reported to be advancing on Charlotte, Raleigh, or Fayetteville, he was still somewhere in South Carolina. He has had a correspondence with Gen. Wade Hampton, threatening to retaliate upon Confederate prisoners in his hands for the murder of some of his foragers, who had been captured, and whose bodies had been found, labelled "Death to all foragers." Sherman asserts his right by the laws of war to forage, and his resolve to protect his men to the extent of life for life. The Confederate General responds that he knows nothing of such murders, and that for every soldier executed by Sherman he will execute two Federals, picking out officers as the first victims. He will hold fifty-six prisoners as hostages for those ordered to be executed by Sherman.—The latter has ordered the pillagers and burners of Columbia, S. C., among his own men, to be shot.

Confederate coloured troops are reported to have been found in front of the first corps of the army of the Potomac. This shows that the Confederates have already adopted the policy of arming their slaves, which there is little doubt will after all receive the sanction of Congress.

New Yorkers don't relish the draft ordered for the 15th, and a committee, including the Governor of the State and other prominent men, were going to Washington to urge its postponement.

FOUR MINISTERS EXTRAORDINARY.—It is rumoured that no less than four Ministers Extraordinary are to be sent by this great country to the Court of St. James. Three of them—Messrs. Cartier, Galt, and Macdonald belong to one wing of the Coalition, and Mr. Macdougall belonging to the other wing, makes up the number. We are not disposed to find fault on trifling grounds; but we may be permitted to ask what four Ministers Extraordinary are to do in England? France gets along with one at the Court of St. James; Russia has no more. But Canada must have four. Whatever other qualities they may possess, all four are new as diplomatists; and perhaps it is deemed necessary to make up in numbers what is wanting in experience. We must not forget that we have a Coalition; and that one wing of it must always be in a position to watch the other. This will account for Mr. Macdougall being of the *corps diplomatique* of the unborn Confederation. If there be any other good reasons for four Ministers Extraordinary, perhaps we shall hear them in good time. At present, we are left to conjecture.—*Leader.*

THE BRITISH ARMY AND NAVY.—The British army and navy estimates for the year 1865-6 have just been announced. The cost of the army is £14,348,447—a reduction of £495,000 from last year; of the navy, £10,392,224—a decrease of £318,000. Total estimates for the military and naval establishments for the coming year, £24,740,671; or 123,703,355 dollars.

The small arms establishment has risen from £162,000 to £172,000, and the royal laboratory from £243,000 to 293,000; but the cost of the gunpowder factory has been cut down from £81,000 to £34,200. Another £10,000 is asked this year for the fortifications of the Mauritius, and with £9,000 more, it is said, the works will be completed. But there are other works which are only just begun. A sum of £35,000 is included in this year's estimates as the first instalment of £260,000 to be spent on the fortification of the Bermudas; a sum of £50,000 as a first instalment of £200,000 on the defences of Quebec; and the estimated cost of the defences of Nova Scotia, upon which £43,000 have been already expended, has risen to £190,000.

In the naval estimates, a million of dollars are appropriated for the completion of the iron-clads El Toussin and El Monassir, which have cost heavily already. The officers and seamen in the navy number 38,000. There are also 7,000 boys in the service, and 7,000 men in the coastguard service against 7,500 last year, making the total 52,000. The marines number 17,000; namely, 8,000 for service afloat and 9,000 for service on shore, being 1,000 less than in 1864-5. The civilians for the coastguard service are 750 against 950, leaving the total force in the fleet and coastguard service 69,750, against 71,950 last year. The navy consists of 540 vessels, classified as follows:—Steamships, 445, of which 357 are screw, and 88 paddle; 26 screw ships are building; 69 effective sailing ships are afloat; making the total of steam and sailing ships 540.

AUSTRALIAN CONVICT SYSTEM.—In the House of Lords, on the 22nd of February, Lord Taunton presented petitions from Australia, praying for the immediate abolition of the transportation of convicts. Earl Granville said the Government would abolish the system. The colonists have triumphed.

A CANDID ADMISSION.—The following is the language of the New York *Herald* a few days since:—"The fact is we are a corrupt people, and no politician can get elected to office without at once commencing to rob and swindle his fellow citizens." Of course; but if the above sentiment came from an English or Canadian journal, the *Herald* would belch forth blasts of war and annihilation to every form of government on the continent save the model republic.

MORE FOOD FOR POWDER.—Forty able-bodied French Canadians left this place yesterday for the States. They are employed, they say, to go to California, for what purpose we did not learn, but as not one of them is likely ever to reach that golden land, this is a matter of very little importance. It is more than likely that they go to swell the 43,000 Canadians already drawn by fair means or foul, into the terrible war south of us.—*St. John's News.*

THE SAVANNAH COTTON.—A despatch from Washington to New York says that it has been determined to ship the cotton captured at Savannah to Liverpool to sell on government account. About 30,000 bales altogether were taken, which, valued at 60 cents per pound, would be worth $3,500,000 in gold. The proposition to ship to England to sell, meets with opposition from the New England manufacturers, who, of course want the profits themselves, but on the other hand it is thought that the sale of such a large quantity of cotton in Liverpool would affect the exchanges favourably, and tend to put down the premium on gold. Whichever way the cotton is disposed of, the Federal government will undoubtedly make a good thing out of the transaction.

THE MADOC MERCURY

AND NORTH RIDING NEWS.

A Weekly Journal of Local and General Information,

Will be Published every Saturday Morning, at Two Cents a Copy, or One Dollar a Year, STRICTLY in advance.

ADVERTISEMENTS will be inserted on the following Terms for Cash:—

Six lines, first insertion	0 50
Each subsequent insertion	0 12½
Six to ten lines, first insertion	0 70
Each subsequent insertion	0 16
Above ten lines (per line) first insertion	0 07
Each subsequent insertion, per line	0 02

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For sale at WILSON'S MEDICAL HALL, *Madoc, where Subscribers in and near the village may obtain their copies, and orders for the paper and advertisements will obligingly be received.*

☞ SUBSCRIPTIONS PAYABLE YEARLY OR QUARTERLY IN ADVANCE.

AMERICAN WAR NEWS.—The War Department at Washington has received direct despatches from Gen. Sherman, who, on the 8th inst., was at Laurel Hill, N. C. Other accounts, not official, state that he was at Fayetteville, and that he was expected in the rear of the Confederate at Goldsboro on the 11th or 12th.

Kinston, N. C., was occupied by Gen. Schofield on the 13th, Gen. Bragg and his army retreating. The Confederate efforts to prevent the junction of the Federal forces advancing from Wilmington and Newbern failed, and the prisoners taken by the Confederates in front of Kinston have been recaptured.

Sheridan has moved on from where last heard of in the neighbourhood of Richmond, but the reports vary as to his destination. One says he has entered Grant's lines north and east of Richmond, while another says he has kept on southward, just west of the city. Information from the army of the Potomac says he is on his way to the White House, and that the raid he has accomplished is the most important of the war.

The adjournment of the Confederate Congress has been postponed from the day on which it was to have taken place at the request of President Davis. He informed them that he expected to have something of importance to lay before them.

Unconfirmed rumours that peace commissioners from Richmond had reached City Point prevailed in Washington on the 15th.

The drafting commenced in New York on the 15th and proceeded quietly.

Gold has declined to 174½.

THE MADOC MERCURY

AND NORTH RIDING NEWS.

MADOC, SATURDAY, MARCH 18.

CONFEDERATION.

The debate on Confederation was virtually closed in the Legislative Assembly on Friday last, when after the "previous question" had been carried by yeas 85 to nays 39, the motion for an Address to her Majesty, praying that she will be pleased to cause a measure for the Confederation of the British North American Provinces to be laid before the Imperial Government, was adopted by the still larger vote of 91 to 33.—Mr. T. C. Wallbridge voted against it.—On Monday, when Mr. J. A. Macdonald moved for the appointment of a select committee to draft an address to her Majesty, based on the resolution in favour of Confederation, Mr. J. H. Cameron, (who had voted for the address to her Majesty) moved an amendment that an address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, praying that His Excellency in view of the magnitude of the interests involved in a measure of such momentous importance, which changes the whole of the existing constitution of the province, will direct an appeal to be made to the people before any action is taken for its confirmation or enactment by the Imperial Parliament.—This, after debate, was lost—there being only 35 members (among whom was Mr. Wallbridge) in favour of their constituents being consulted.—With regard to the constitutional power of the Provincial Parliament to settle the question without an appeal to the people, Mr. Huntingdon contended that if this doctrine is correct, then Parliament might at any time properly, constitutionally, and justifiably annex the country to the United States. If it had power to change the constitution in one direction without the consent of the people, it must also have power to change it in the other. No attempt was made to answer this point, which was suggested in the *Mercury* some weeks since.—Other amendments were offered, and of course rejected; and the address was ordered to be engrossed, and another address, to the Governor-General, was also ordered, asking him to transmit the same. The members then, before separating, sang "God Save the Queen." The next day the House proceeded in a body to the Executive Council Chamber and presented the address to the Governor-General, who expressed his satisfaction at its adoption, and the pleasure he should have in transmitting it to be submitted to Her Majesty.

So far as the Canadian Government is concerned, then, Confederation is resolved on; ostensibly, as the only means of preventing annexation to the neighbouring republic. In England, on the other hand, the scheme seems to be favoured as paving the way for severing the Imperial connection with the Colonies, and thus getting rid of the danger of war with the United States for their defence. With the other Colonies unwilling to unite with her Canada is thus placed in rather a perplexing predicament.

THE DEFENCE OF CANADA.

How the expense of defending Canada is to be shared between Great Britain and the Province is fast becoming a question of much importance, upon the settlement of which the continued political connection between the mother country and the colony seems not unlikely to depend. The home authorities evidently think that Canadians are unwilling to assume a fair proportion of the burden of defending themselves; and the Canadian Government are quite as clearly of the opinion that more is required of the Province than it has the ability to undertake. On this account, it is intended that a delegation of the Ministers shall proceed to England, to discuss and arrange the matter there; and as a proof that this country is prepared to take its share of the responsibility of maintaining itself as a part of the British Empire, the Legislature is asked to vote a million of dollars for works of permanent defence. The amount is the same as the Imperial Government proposes for strengthening the fortifications at Quebec. If England will not do more than that, then Mr. Galt adopts the sentiment that the best armament for Canada is no armament at all.

The difficulty the delegation will have to deal with will be to explain how it is that Canada, which was represented as in so flourishing a condition when Confederation was first proposed, is now too much depressed and embarrassed to do more for defence; and to overcome the reluctance of the English manufacturers to submit to increased taxation for a country which imposes heavy duties upon what they send here.

Will self-interest on both sides prove strong to keep up much longer a connection which seems to depend now chiefly on sentiment, and this question of taxation for defence lead to separation from the mother country, as it did in the case of the old American colonies?

The Marmora Railroad.

The public meeting in the Town-Hall, Belleville, on Friday night last, to take into consideration the best means of setting about the construction of the proposed railroad to Marmora from Belleville, was one of the largest and most enthusiastic ever held there. The chair was occupied by the Mayor, and John Sutherland, Esq., was appointed Secretary. As will be seen from the names of the movers and seconders of the resolutions adopted, the meeting was addressed by some of the leading men of the town, who all warmly advocated the project, and showed that there is every probability that the road will be a paying one, and that it is a necessity to relieve the depression and stagnation from which the town is suffering at present.—It is certainly time that some effort of this kind should be made, when, as was stated by Mr. Wills, the Town Treasurer, from the fact that the County is becoming poorer every year, most of the farms mortgaged, and the young men leaving by hundreds to seek employment elsewhere.

The scheme seems now to have a fair chance of being started, and we hope to see it pushed forward with such energy that the work may be speedily commenced, and that its construction would soon set Mr. Seymour's iron foundry in this village again in full blast, and contributing liberally to the freight transportation of the road.

The resolutions, which were carried unanimously, were as follows:—

Moved by the Hon. Billa Flint, seconded by the Hon. Read, and Resolved, "That in the opinion of this meeting it advisable to take energetic steps to secure the construction Railway between Belleville and Marmora, by such course and advisable route as would best develop the mineral other resources in the rear of this County."

Moved by A. Diamond, seconded by Thos. Holden, and solved, "That in view of the immense quantities of Iron per, Lead, and other minerals known to exist in many rear Townships, which such Railway is designed especially develop and make available for the purposes of trade commerce, the enterprise acquires a Provincial importance and should receive a liberal assistance and support from Government and Legislature of the Province, if not in the at least in the shape of a grant of wild lands, in the this and adjoining counties, which otherwise will remain settled and unproductive."

Moved by Thomas Wills, seconded by R. P. Jellett, and solved, "That it is the duty as well as the interest of the of Belleville, and the County of Hastings, to grant assistance in building such Railway, either by stock subscriptions or otherwise, as may be deemed advisable after the has advanced to that stage as to warrant such action taken."

Moved by F. McAnnany, seconded by Neil McArthur, Resolved, "That five persons be appointed to draft a petition to the Government, in accordance with the above resolutions, and report forthwith, in order that the subject may be brought before the attention of Parliament at the earliest possible, and that the following persons be such committee, Thos. Wills, A. Diamond, Thos. Holden, Alex. S. Brown, Thos. Kelso."

Moved by Mr. Conger, seconded by Mr. Patterson, and solved, "That an executive Committee, to be composed of the following gentlemen, viz.:—The Hon. L. Wallbridge, R. Read, Messrs. John Bell, F. McAnnany, A. Thomas, Holden, Geo. Neilson, A. S. Brown, Thos. Kelso, Thos. Thos. Wills, W. W. Dean, Jno. Sutherland, P. D. Conger, Patterson, with power to add to their number, be appointed carry out the objects of this meeting."

The memorial to the Governor-General and Parliament, asking for a grant of wild lands, was adopted.

ACCIDENT.—*Loss of an Arm.*—Gilbert Foster, of Mr. James Foster, residing near the Town Huntingdon, had his left arm cut off above the Monday afternoon, while engaged in feeding a cutter driven by horse-power. The mitten hand caught between the rollers, when his hand drawn through, and before his father could

...inery, the knives had cut his fingers, hand and ... of the arm so deeply, that amputation became ...sary. The operation was performed by Dr. ...ff.

THAW.—The long-continued frost, which has ...ailed almost uninterruptedly since the winter ..., has given way at last, and the snow, which at ...beginning of the week was deeper on the ground ... at any previous part of the season, has disap...ed rapidly under the influence of the heavy rain ...h poured down on Thursday. The creeks are ...dy beginning to overflow, and good sleighing ...soon be exchanged for muddy roads.

...A-MEETING.—A Tea-Meeting in aid of the Church ...ngland and Ireland Madoc Mission will be held ...Wednesday evening next in the Good Templars' ... The friends of the church and the public gen... ...y are invited to attend.

...E FRONTIER FORCE.—Mr. Galt has obtained an ...tional vote of $350,000 for this force. Its ser... ...e are to be continued till the 1st September, and ...ially until the American war is brought to a close.

From Europe.

...e steamship Hansa, from Southampton on the ...f March arrived at New York on the 14th.

...e public will hear with great regret that Lord ...ns has been compelled, by the state of his health, ...sign the post of British Minister at Washington. ...Frederick Bruce has been appointed to be Lord ...ns' successor.

...ueen Victoria has emerged from her retirement. ... held a grand court on the last day of February.

...ALY.—A telegram from Turin says:—"The King ...signed an amnesty for all acts connected with re...riots in Turin."

...e steamship Peruvian, from Liverpool on the 3rd, ...ed at Portland on the 15th inst.

...EAT BRITAIN.—The Parliamentary proceedings ... unimportant.

...ueen Victoria has temporarily emerged from her ...sion by receiving the foreign ambassadors, mem... ...of the Legations, &c., in state at Buckingham ...e. The Queen will hold another court on the ...inst., which is limited to a select circle of Eng...nobility.

...e great exhibition in Dublin is to be inaugurated ...he Prince of Wales with the same ceremonial as ... the Queen herself.

...e opening of the telegraph to India has been for...y inaugurated, causing considerable sensation. ...ate messages from Calcutta had reached Constan...ple in twelve hours, and a message from Kurrachee ...reached England in eight hours and a half.

...USSIA.—The Russian country bordering upon the ...es of Central Asia, extending from the Sea of Azoff ...ake Yesickkiel, has been formed into a Russian ...vince, under the title of Russian Turkistan.

...our Clothaires and Athelstanes were pagans one ... and sound churchmen the next, and all their sub..., by a remarkable coincidence, were as obstinate ...themselves up to the last moment, and became con...ed simultaneously with their chief. It is to a sim... ...physchological phenomenon that we owe it that ...ada is the only one of the B. N. A. provinces in ...ch confederation meets with any success.—*Mon... Herald.*

...The people of Morocco have not taken kindly to ...telegraph, recently introduced into that country. ...y cut the wires, and the Emperor returned the ...pliment by cutting off the heads of two offenders, ...ornamenting the telegraph poles with them.

...CROSS OF SILK-WORMS.—The British Consul at ...w-chang reports to the Shanghai Chamber of Com...rce the existence of a silkworm which feeds upon ... leaves. The silk is a little coarse, but the Chi... ...mix it with cotton, and so make silk of a rough ...ture, which is used to a very large extent. Mr. ...or, who has had a very large experience, is in...ed to think that the oak-eating worm might be ...sed with the mulberry-eating species of Europe, ... is slowly dying out—no man knows why.

...UGAR FROM SORGHUM.—Sugar can now be manu...ured from sorghum with complete success. Mr. ...ert Moore, of Bloomington, Illinois, has discover... ...a method of crystalization by which the syrup ...n Imphee and Chinese sugar cane can be advan...ously reduced to sugar. The Imphee variety is ...id to be the best; and, it is stated, the sugar can be produced in large quantities as quickly as from the ordinary sugar cane. One gallon of syrup, it is estimated, will yield about five pounds of sugar, leaving an excellent article of molasses. It may certainly be worth while to try to grow and make this sugar in some parts of Canada, and it is likely to answer nearly as well as in Illinois.

Horse flesh soup, horse flesh hash, horse flesh truffled, and horse liver, were on the bill of fare at the recent horse flesh banquet in Paris. Tickets were $3.

The Newfoundland herring fishery has not been successful.

Beautiful black ink is manufactured from petroleum.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

LIST OF LETTERS

Remaining in Madoc Post Office up to February 28, 1865.

Brown, Jas & John	Ketcheson, Mrs P
Brown, D C	Louis, Isiah
Bradshaw, Jeptha	Lyle, Robert
Breakenridge, Jas	Mc Guire, James
Brown, Wm	Mc Coy, Wm J
Chisholm, M	Murphy, Patrick
Creage, Samuel	Macbeth, William
Coons, Miss M E	Martin, Jessie
Dulmage, Samuel	Monroe, L
Dickens, Wm	Mc Goffa, Mrs
Dowd, C P	Martin, Samuel
Eager, Mrs Elizabeth	Mooney, Wm H
Fitzpatrick, John	Nelson, Mr A
Fitzpatrick, John	Pollock, John
Fitzpatrick, John	Pelow, Louis
Fox, Miss Jenny	Rusaw, Miss Margaret
Fife, James	Raspberry, Mary
Frise, Mr G	Stackpole Agustos
Hannah, J W	St Charles, John
Hulin, James	St Charles, Johnny
Hulin, Mary	Stetrow, James
Hemstreet, Samuel	Vancleek, Peter
Hermon, Mrs Wm	Wannamaker, J H
Howe, Simon	Wannemaker, J H

A. F. WOOD, *Postmaster.*

MADOC HOUSE.

WOOD & BREAKELL,

General Merchants,

Are Paying the HIGHEST PRICE in CASH for any Quantity of

Wheat, Rye, Barley, Oats, and Peas.

FLOUR for Sale, fresh ground and in Barrels.

AUGUST 17, 1864.

FARM TO LET.

THE FARM, containing 200 acres, Lot No. 9, in the 9th Concession of Huntingdon, with extensive buildings, known as

"The Old Francis Place."

Rent moderate.

This Farm is on the County gravel road from Belleville to MADOC, Five Miles from the latter place, where there is a cash market for produce. Apply to

ROMEO H. STEPHENS, Montreal, or
M. P. HAYES, Madoc.

April 16, 1864.

NORTH HASTINGS.

JOB PRINTING

OF EVERY DESCRIPTION

Executed at the

"MERCURY"

OFFICE, MADOC,

(The Only Printing Establishment in the North Riding.)

With Neatness and Dispatch.

SUPPORT THE LOCAL INSTITUTIONS!!

North American Hotel, Madoc.

W. HUDGINS

RESPECTFULLY informs the Public that his new Hotel, erected on the site of the old stand, is now finished and completely furnished and ready for the reception of guests.

THE NORTH AMERICAN HOTEL is quite equal in all its arrangements to any first class hotel in any village in Canada.

A Good Yard and Stables attached to the premises.

All the Liquors are of the very best quality and brands.

☞ Fine Ale and Porter always on draught.

MEDICAL HALL.

DURHAM STREET, MADOC.

C. G. WILSON,

CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST.

FOR SCHOOL BOOKS, STATIONERY, AND CHILDREN'S BOOKS,

At Publishers' Prices, Call At

WILSON'S DRUG STORE,

DURHAM STREET, MADOC.

A. F. WOOD,

MARRIAGE LICENSE AGENT,

MADOC.

J. R. KETCHESON,

Township Clerk,

WILL be at the TOWN-HALL, MADOC, every SATURDAY, to attend to the business of the Township.

MADOC GRIST MILL,

A. F. WOOD, Madoc.

A thoroughly Competent Miller in charge.

MR. GREAM,

(Solicitor and Attorney of the Chancery and Law Courts of England)

Conveyancer, Coroner, &c.

JAMES FITZGERALD,

ATTORNEY AND CONVEYANCER

MADOC.

A. B. ROSS & BROTHER,

GENERAL MERCHANTS,

The Highest Price in Cash paid for Potash

A. B. ROSS. S. D. ROSS.

Best Spanish Sole Leather

ON HAND, CHEAP FOR CASH.

CASH Paid for HIDES and PELTS by

SYLVANUS MULLETT.

C. E. RANKIN,

Provincial Land Surveyor,

Civil Engineer, &c.

OFFICE, Hudgins' Hotel, Madoc.

FOR SALE, OR TO LET,

THE HOUSE on the North side of KELLAR'S BRIDGE. It is well adapted and situated for a

GENERAL STORE,

Being eight miles distant from the Village of Hastings, on the new Gravel Road to Tudor. Six Acres of Land attached.

For TERMS, inquire at the MERCURY Office.

MADOC MARKET PRICES.

SATURDAY, March 18, 1865.

ASHES	$4 50 ₱ cwt.
BARLEY	60 cents.
OATS	45 cents.
WHEAT	90 cents.
RYE	50 cents.
PEAS	60 cents.
HIDES	$3.
PORK	$12 ₱ bbl.
BUTTER	9d ₱ lb.
EGGS	6d.
HAY	$ ₱ ton.

BELLEVILLE MARKETS.

Fall Wheat, 5s. 0d. 5s. 3d. Spring Wheat, 4s 9d 20s 0d.
Rye, 3s. Barley, 3s 3d @ 0s 0d. Oats, 2s 3d 2s 6d.
Pease, 3s 9d 4s 0d. Butter 9d. Eggs, 6d. Hides, firm.
at 12s 6d ₱ 100. Pelts, steady at 6s 3d for fresh. Wool, 1s 9d
Potash, 22s 6d.

THINKING.

Through the clouds of gold and purple,
Slow the sun is sinking;
Fetlock-deep within the river
Stand the cattle, drinking;
On the bridge above the mill-stream,
Rests the maiden—thinking.

Nut-brown hair that mocks the sunset
With its golden gleaming,
Hands above her pitcher folded,
With the graceful seeming
Of an antique-sculptured Nereid,
By a fountain dreaming.

As a tender thought had swayed her,
O'er the stream she's leaning,
While her red lips curve and quiver
With a sudden meaning,
And a quick nod shakes her ringlets,
All her features screening.

For there comes a sound of laughter,
And a merry cheering,
And the cattle turn their faces
To a step that's nearing—
And she waits for words low spoken
In a tone endearing.

Low behind the western tree-tops
Now the sun is sinking,
Towards the bridge the weary cattle
Warn themselves from drinking—
Ah! they never guessed as I did,
What the maid was thinking.

HASTY JUDGEMENTS.

BY ELIZABETH O'HARA.

"Appearances are deceitful" is an oft-quoted proverb; but do we allow it to soften our censure of another's conduct? do we even remember that circumstances also have their two sides—that we may be mistaken in our views—may attribute wrong motives—that it is scarce possible we can unerringly discover our friends' reasons for the actions we venture to discuss so freely? above all, why, when dealing our disapprobation, do we forget that "Charity thinketh no evil?" Men and women deal alike in this deplorable spirit of harsh criticism. Detraction is by no means confined, as male satirists say, to morning-calls and the tea-table: peep into the mess-room—gossipping scandal and ill-natured remarks issue from mustachioed lips; the M.P. in the club-room canvasses his neighbour's affairs as well as those of the nation; join that knot of portly merchants on 'Change, their talk is not all of corn and cotton, tariffs and teas; ten to one there is as much tittle-tattle going on, as many sneers levelled at unoffending unconscious heads, as would season the tea of the veriest washerwoman who raises her saucer, and hopes Betty's finery is honestly come by. Reader! may I relate a judgment and its consequences?

A mixed party of friends had met in the drawing-room of Mrs. Price, a rich widow residing with her daughter at Hatherleigh, a pretty little town, or rather large village, in the south of England. The company—for it was a gala, a state affair, requiring best caps, ponderous calashes, and Mary or John with the lantern at ten—consisted of two or three annuitants of either sex, a half-pay captain, the head of the branch bank, the attorney's family, the curate, and George Bolton, or Dr. Bolton, a young practitioner just settled in the town. They were all, as usual, talking of men, not things; judging their neighbours, not themselves; and yet they were inoffensive, worthy, well-disposed persons, not more malignant than the rest of the world, yet quite unable to refrain from the delightful recreation of censure, to forego the immense superiority implied by blaming others; in fact, this judging is such a soother to one's own self, that poor human nature cannot fail to relish it highly; and Mrs. Price and her friends were enjoying the excitement of a fault-chase.

"Well!" said the former, "it is no business of mine, certainly; but I must say I think Agnes Dalton very wrong to act as she does."

"How, ma'am?" asked Dr. Bolton, who had hitherto remained silent.

"Why, in living at home a burden to her poor mother," answered Caroline Price. "I like Agnes exceedingly, but I can't help thinking she ought to do something, and not cramp poor dear Mrs. Dalton's means. Why, I would much rather be a governess, or anything, than curtail mamma's comforts to maintain me."

"Certainly; a very proper feeling. But are you sure, Miss Price, that Mrs. Dalton's means are unequal to their support?"

"I am sorry to say there is no doubt of it," replied Mrs. Price. "Every one knows that Captain Price died in embarrassed circumstances, and had nothing to leave, so his wife can have little more than her pension; and what is that for two?"

"Perhaps Miss Dalton cannot find a situation—that is often difficult to meet with; or her mother may not wish her to leave home."

"I can assure you you are quite mistaken; for knowing how narrow their circumstances are, I mentioned a very nice situation to Agnes the other day; it was with a cousin of my own, and the salary is truly liberal; any young lady might accept it, and many would jump at it, but Miss Dalton refused it at once; and when her mother seemed inclined to urge it upon her, she was quite annoyed, and said very peremptorily, 'No, mamma, it cannot be;' while Mrs. Dalton looked so woe-begone, I really felt for her, vexed as I was to see her giving up so weakly to Agnes's nonsensical airs. I wonder she was not ashamed to sit there faddling over fancy-work, as if she could afford to be idle."

"I know," said the banker, "that poor Dalton was very hard up."

"One could not think so," remarked the attorney's wife, "to see the lovely shawl Miss Dalton wore last Sunday."

"Is it not a beauty?" cried Caroline; "it cost an immensity."

"Indeed, my dear, what do you know about it?" asked Mrs. Price.

"Why, mamma, when I called at Hall's to buy my visite, he showed it me, and he told me the price—twenty-five pounds; it was a foreign material, he said, and I remarked a little spot in the corner, and when I saw it at church I remembered it at once; and when I spoke to Agnes as we were going out, I could not help hinting at her expensive shawl, and she looked very confused,—don't you remember, mamma: But you were wondering who the gentleman was that was with them, for Mrs. Dalton did not introduce him."

"Ah! yes, my dear—did you observe him, Dr. Bolton?—Oh, no, you were not at church."

Some of the party did remember the stranger, and all wondered who he could be. The attorney suggested it might be an admirer from London, as Agnes was a pretty girl; and as Mrs. Dalton had been heard to express a wish to see her married, it was settled *nem. con.* that she was remaining at home on a matrimonial speculation. Many present would have objected to the introduction of cards, considering them an unprofitable or improper amusement. How little did they suspect the propriety of their late pastime! they laid down that night well pleased with the innocent and rational enjoyment of the evening, and shook Agnes's hand when next they met her, little deeming that they had maligned her motives and done her a most cruel wrong.

George Bolton had been struck with the grace of her manner, and the charms of her ingenuous conversation, yet his admiration was at present rather that of the eye and taste than the heart; he had said to himself, "That is a sweet, interesting girl—one likely to adorn my fireside with useful virtues as well as elegant refinements;" and he had proceeded on his task of investigation quite unconscious of the hopes he was exciting in Agnes.

Some young lady may be inclined to quarrel with me for that word "hopes;" but while partaking her proper horror of husband-hunters, I still maintain that no hope can be dearer to a true-hearted woman than that of being the chosen wife and friend of a good man—the mother of his children. All our instincts are maternal: why deny that we hope to fulfil them?

And thus Agnes hoped; while George, with the accustomed selfishness of his sex, studied her character and guarded himself, thought not of consequences to her. He was essentially a marrying man; his tastes were entirely domestic; his comforts depended on female companionship; a wife was necessary to him; and he had almost decided on proposing, when the news he gleaned at Mrs. Price's checked his intentions. The information was so clear and straightforward, there was no doubting it. In the first place, Agnes, to gratify a weak pride, refused to exert herself, but remained a burden on her widowed mother, who was anxious to see her earning an honourable independence: such selfishness was revolting. Again, twenty-five pounds for a shawl! Bolton's was but a competency; and he had a cold shiver as the words called up the vision of a long linen-draper's bill addressed to Mrs. Bolton. He blessed his stars at his escape, and congratulating himself on his previous caution, determined to back out as gracefully as possible from his increasing intimacy with the Daltons. Then, who could the stranger be? Dr. Bolton was just enough enamoured to be a little anxious; he was rather piqued, too. Mrs. Dalton, and, what was more to the purpose, Agnes, had obviously been pleased with his attentions; yet the latter had never added a ribbon to her attire for his sake, while a five-and-twenty pound shawl flaunted before the stranger. Never mind! it was all of a piece—not worth thinking about. So, on the morrow, instead of calling as usual with a work from the book-club, he sent his compliments; and when he occasionally met Agnes in her walks, he bowed and rode on, intent, or, as hitherto, checking his horse for a short chat of a few minutes' saunter.

(To be concluded next week.)

VARIETIES.

When does the letter s become jolly?—When it makes sport of port.

"Parents," said a solemn lecturer, "you have children; or, if you have not, your daughters may have."

He that keeps his temper is better than he that can keep a carriage.

A young lady at school, engaged in the study of grammar, was asked if "kiss" was a common or proper noun. After some hesitation, she replied, "It is both common and proper."

Theodore Hook once saw an exceedingly pompous man walking in a street, in London, whom he immediately accosted thus: "Sir, may I inquire if you are anybody in particular?" He then walked off, without waiting for a reply.

A new invention in France is said to be a pair of musical boots, which have been exhibited to the emperor. At every step the pressure of the boot produces melody—it may be a waltz, a mazurka, or an operatic air.

A photographer who has been employed by the Dutch Government to take views of the most beautiful points on the island of Java has discovered an entire city buried beneath the lava of a volcano elder by, which has been extinct for several centuries.

"I will not strike thee, bad man," said a Quaker one day, "but I will let this billet of wood fall on thee!"—and at that precise moment the "bad man" was floored by the weight of the walking-stick that the Quaker was known to carry.

"How dat, Sambo? You says you was at de battle of Bull Run! when I sees you at New York on de same night!"—"Yes, Julius, you did for sartin. Yer see, our colonel says he, 'Boys, strike for your country and yer homes!' Well, some struck for de country, but dis chile struck for home. Dat splains de matter, yer see!"

A Jew complained to the Governor of Warsaw that a Cossack had robbed him of a horse. The Cossack were paraded, the robber was pointed out, when, with the utmost effrontery, he remarked that he had found the horse. "How?" replied the Jew; "I was upon his back!"—"Yes," retorted the Cossack, "I found you, too; but having no use for a Jew, I let you go."

Walking and Sleeping upon Railroad Tracks.—Two hundred and seventy-five persons have been run over and killed while walking or lying upon the railroad tracks in the State of Massachusetts, during the last ten years. The largest number in any one year was 38 (in 1862), and the smallest number 22 (in 1861). With these facts published from year to year, it is extraordinary that people will persist in the dangerous practice of using the railroad tracks instead of the highway, either for walking or *sleeping*.

Jibes at the Confederates.—Prentice, of Louisville, perpetrates the following:—The rebels seem to have a great aversion to hear our Parrott guns talk.—It is said that a very extensive wooden-ham and wooden-nutmeg establishment is to be put up in Charleston without delay.—One Southern paper says that Sherman is just where they want him. Then both sides are suited.—The flag of the Union waves. That of the rebellion wavers.—One thing is at last definitely settled. The "last ditch" isn't in South Carolina.

A Mark of Civilisation.—A French writer concludes an account of his shipwreck in these words:—"Having arrived at an unknown region, I travelled eleven hours without discovering the least trace of any human being. At last I perceived, to my great joy, a wretch suspended on a gibbet. 'Ah!' I exclaimed, 'I am now in a civilized country.'"

Honesty not the Best Policy.—A milkman finding that his business was not what it should be, resolved to sell milk, instead of milk and water, as he had formerly done, and thus test the soundness of the old maxim about honesty. A day or two after he had effected the aforesaid change, he was told by one of his customers, a matronly old lady, that she need bring no more milk to her. In great surprise he asked her the reason why. "Because," said she, "the article you sold me yesterday was the queerest stuff I ever saw. It had not stood there two hours when it had a nasty yellow scum on it."

THE MADOC MERCURY
AND NORTH RIDING NEWS.

MADOC, (HASTINGS CO., C.W.) SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1865. PRICE TWO CENTS.

AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

Sherman took possession of Fayetteville, the 10th instant. He describes his army as th and spirits, having met with no serious From the length of time which has se he started from Savannah, it is, however, at he has had to advance with great cau- hat although the Confederates are laughed respondents with his army as contenting with acting as an escort on his march, along in front as if they had captured his with a division of very peaceable cavalry behind," it has not been deemed advisable too close quarters with them. And since has shown that it is his policy to slip round places when vigorously defended, it by no ows that the Confederates are demoralized hey retreat slowly before him, until they oint where he can no longer pursue his strategy, but must either be checked or con- ive battle in the open field.—The result of thus far has been that at Columbia he immense arsenals and railroad establish- 48 cannon; at Cheraw he captured 25 d 3,600 barrels of powder; and at Fayette- nd 20 pieces of artillery and much other But he did not, as was reported, intercept his retreat northward, as that General, on approaching Fayetteville, quitted it, and eigh with 20,000 men. Sherman, it seems, tempt to capture that city next, as he was to be in Goldsboro by the 20th instant. an found abundant subsistence for his men ountry through which he marched, and the re represented as well disposed towards the on, yet a communication sent to him from ton had to be escorted by a regiment of cav- d his own scouts had to make long detours in despatches from him, in order to escape the s of the Confederates.

fighting near Kinston, the Federals admit a 2,000 killed, wounded, and prisoners, and say at of the Confederates must be all of 3,000; d of the latter, owing to their reckless assaults he enemy's works, outnumbering that of the five to one.

ral Lee is reported by deserters to be in com- of the Confederate forces in North Carolina. headquarters are at Raleigh. He had brought a large force with him from Richmond, where gard and Johnston are left in command, the ations there being manned by the new negro who replace the force accompanying Gen. North Carolina.—With 20,000 men under Har- d 25,000 under Bragg, Lee is apparently con- ting a heavy force to confront Sherman, and t battle can scarcely be much longer delayed. Sherman leaves the State in possession of the derates and endeavours to join Grant in front of hond.

Sheridan, who was for a time lost sight of leaving Columbia, near Richmond, has been of again at last, his march towards White e, on the Pamunky river, having been impeded force sent out from the city, under Longstreet, rest his destructive raid. Northern accounts at he worsted the Confederates, but it is ad- that in the skirmishes which took place, some- times one and then the other was compelled to fall back.—The publication of the Richmond papers had been suspended, because the printers, reporters, &c., being members of military bodies, had been called out by the Goverbor for special service for a short time—probably to look after Sheridan.—On his march round the north of Richmond, Sheridan found that Early was only a short distance ahead, and very nearly succeeded in capturing him.

A Federal attack upon Mobile is daily expected. There are about 15,000 Confederate troops there. The women and children were all being sent away.

The N. Y. Tribune has private information that Gen. Lee has notified Jeff Davis that it is impossible, with the means at his command, to make head against the Union forces now concentrating for his overthrow.

There were rumours in New York, on the 20th, of the evacuation of Mobile and the resignation of Gen. Lee, under which gold fell to 164¼.

The Tribune's army of the Potomac correspondence of the 16th says:—All goes to show we will have a short but severe campaign. In a few days a series of contests will have begun between the two great armies that will cause profound excitement all through the North.

The St. Albans Raiders.

MONTREAL, MARCH 20, 1865.—His Honor, Judge Smith, having recovered from his recent sickness, the investigation in the St. Albans raiders' case was resumed this morning. The court was somewhat less crowded than formerly, and opened at 11 o'clock.

Mr. Laflamme, Q. C., continued his address from the last sitting of the court. After asserting that he had established that the offence was a political one, he referred to Earl Russell's despatch to Mr. Adams, which laid down that the production of a commission by the accused as an authorized officer of a belligerent government was a sufficient justification of any act of war. He also referred to the trial of Capt. Beale, a companion of Burley in the Lake Erie affair, who was arrested in the United States for a political offence, thus giving the lie on the part of the United States authorities for the application for extradition in the case of Burley. The rest of the address, which lasted till one o'clock, p.m. was principally devoted to contending for the military character of the prisoners, and that consequently their offence did not come within the provisions of the treaty. As for the alleged breach of neutrality he (Mr. L.) stated that had nothing to do with the acts as committed towards the United States government.

Hon. Mr. Monk, who was to follow on the part of the defence, having stated that he thought it unnecessary, it was arranged that Mr. B. Devlin, should open the case for the prosecution.

The Prorogation of Parliament.

Parliament was prorogued on Saturday, when the Governor-General proceeded in state to the Legislative Council chamber, and after sanctioning the bills passed, closed the session with the following speech:—

"HON. GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL:
GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:—

"In relieving you for the present from further attendance in Parliament, I rejoice that I am able to congratulate you upon having laid the foundation for a more intimate union of Her Majesty's possessions in British North America. I am also happy to think that the course which you have adopted has been calculated to prove the sincerity and earnestness with which you adhere to the policy of Her Majesty in relation to foreign countries, and your readiness to pass measures which may be found necessary for the enforcement of that policy within the province.

"GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:—

"I thank you for the provision you have made for carrying on the public service of the province. The sum which has been entrusted to the government by your vote for the permanent defence of the province cannot fail to be regarded by our fellow subjects in England as an earnest that Canadians are ready to accept the responsibility, whilst they claim the advantages, of British connection.

"HON. GENTLEMEN AND GENTLEMEN:—

"It has been considered advisable that a deputation from the government of Canada should proceed to London to confer with Her Majesty's Ministers on questions of great importance to the colony. When these gentlemen shall have returned, I shall lose no time in again availing myself of your counsels, and laying before you the result of their mission."

The prorogation, *pro forma*, is until the 27th April.

The Thaw and the Freshets.

The thaw which set in last week has extended over the whole Province, the snow melting away rapidly even in Quebec, and flooding most of the streets. In western Canada, much damage has been done by the freshets which have followed the thaw. The ice broke up in the Thames on Thursday, submerging the flats and lowlands near London, and sweeping away trees, logs, fences and portions of barns, and everything that came in its way. The bridges at Caledonia and Indiana, over the Grand River, near Brantford, have been carried away. On Saturday, the creek at Port Hope overflowed, carrying away a bridge and two mill dams, and inundating all the buildings in the locality. At Goderich, the river broke up on Monday, and a saw mill was swept away and a steamer arrived out into the Lake.

In the States, the destruction of property has been still more serious, and has been accompanied in some instances with the loss of life. At Rochester, the New York Central Railroad bridge went over the Falls, on Saturday, and it is rumoured that four persons went over with it. Near Syracuse, the Binghamton and Oswego railroads were both damaged. At and in the neighbourhood of Utica, the Mohawk river overflowed its banks, carrying away the iron bridge of the Black River Railroad, and a wooden bridge on the same road. The bridge over Oriskany Creek, at Clark's mills, was swept away on Thursday evening, and three men with it. It lodged upon a tree some distance below, and one of the men managed to get upon it, and was rescued the next morning. The other two men have not since been seen, and are supposed to be drowned. A number of other bridges over the same creek were carried away, and some dams and mills were destroyed. Much other damage, from the same cause, has been done in other localities in the northern and central parts of New York.

In Pennsylvania, the Allegany and Monongahela rivers, and their tributaries, have been fearfully swollen. Pittsburg, Kittaning, Oil City and other places have been inundated, railroad bridges, aqueducts and tracks have been badly damaged, and numerous mills have had to suspend operations.

From Europe.

The steamship Africa, from Liverpool on the 4th, arrived at Halifax on the 16th.

The news of the fall of Charleston had caused considerable sensation, and was much discussed in the English papers.—The Army and Navy Gazette says the evacuation of Charleston and Columbia and the concentration of garrisons, will strengthen the hands of Beauregard, Hardee, and Hill, but the Confederates are placed in a position of exceeding danger, from which it will require greater generals than ever Lee or Davis have as yet exhibited to extricate them. The purpose of Grant becomes more obvious as the campaign proceeds. He holds Lee fast, and thus paralyzes the strongest arm and neutralizes the greatest force of the Confederacy.

In a note from a member of the government received in Liverpool on the 2nd inst., occurs the following passage:—"I hear the city is uneasy about America. We have, however, more pacific and satisfactory declarations from the United States government than for a long time past has been the case."

The Post thinks that Sir F. Bruce goes out to reciprocate the words of amity recently transmitted across the Atlantic.

In a fire at Constantinople a convent and a large number of houses were destroyed, and 100 lives lost.

THE MADOC MERCURY

AND NORTH RIDING NEWS,

A Weekly Journal of Local and General Information,

Will be Published every Saturday Morning, at Two Cents a Copy, or One Dollar a Year, STRICTLY in advance.

ADVERTISEMENTS WILL BE INSERTED ON THE FOLLOWING TERMS FOR CASH:—

Six lines, first insertion	0 50
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All Communications for the MERCURY to be addressed, (post-paid) to A. SMALLFIELD, Madoc Post Office.

For sale at WILSON'S MEDICAL HALL, *Madoc, where Subscribers in and near the village may obtain their copies, and orders for the paper and advertisements will obligingly be received.*

☞ SUBSCRIPTIONS PAYABLE YEARLY OR QUARTERLY IN ADVANCE.

American War News.

The fate of the Southern Confederacy, if reliance may be placed on the latest Northern statements, is rapidly approaching the decisive crisis.—Johnston and Bragg having united their forces, were expected to make a stand at Goldsboro; but the Washington Republican says that Sherman having formed a junction with Schofield, entered Goldsboro on Sunday last his march thither being unopposed. The report further says that Sherman's present command is sufficiently formidable to confront Lee's whole army in the open field, without the assistance of Grant, and that no force the Confederates may raise can impede Sherman's triumphant march northwards.

Johnston is reported to be moving to Richmond, to join Lee and Raleigh. It is said, will be captured with little or no fighting. Indeed, a report by way of Newbern says that Raleigh is already evacuated, and that the Confederates have fallen back to Hillsboro.

Sheridan is off on another raid, and it is said will intercept Johnston in his retreat.

The army of the Potomac is believed to be advancing West and a great battle is expected soon.—The Federal troops at Hatcher's Run, south of Petersburg, were under arms for 36 hours towards the end of last week, expecting an attack from the Confederates.

Despatches from Washington to New York papers say that it is Grant's opinion that Richmond will be evacuated within the "next ten days;" and that President Lincoln does not believe that there will be any more serious fighting, but that the Confederates will soon surrender.

Among other rumours it is reported that Jeff Davis had abdicated the position of President of the Confederacy, and had handed over the reins of his sinking government to Gen. Lee, with the understanding that the latter as supreme dictator would make one last desperate effort with such resources as are left within his control.—The entire effective force of the Confederacy is stated to be only 120,000 men.—Lee looks upon the arming of the slaves as a failure, the adoption of the measure having been too long delayed.—Davis, Lee, Stephens, Hunter, and the other leaders, are said to be all hopeless of the rebellion, and meditating flight to Mexico. The same conviction of the hopelessness of their cause prevails so extensively as to threaten a general stampede of the entire army.—A very short period ought to suffice to establish the truth or falsity of these statements.

It is somewhat singular, however, that coincident with these flattering prospects of the speedy collapse of the "rebellion," a panic has commenced in financial circles in New York, which affects the commercial community, and leads to a general feeling of distrust.

THE MADOC MERCURY

AND NORTH RIDING NEWS.

MADOC, SATURDAY, MARCH 25.

☞ We acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt from Hon. B. Flint, of the Reports on the State of the Militia, and of the Commissioner of Public Works, and a portion of the debates on Confederation.

The Ministerial delegation about to proceed to England "to confer with Her Majesty's Ministers on questions of great importance to the colony," will probably find by the time they arrive there, that their pet scheme of Confederation will require far less of their attention than the satisfactory solution of the vexed question of the defence of Canada, to which the latest intelligence from Europe has just given greatly increased interest.—Although from time to time some hints of the possible imminence of war with the United States have been dropped by Ministers, no very great importance has been attached to them, in view of the fact that no earnest effort has been made to prepare for it by putting the militia force in an effective condition, and that it was not until the close of the late session that they asked for any money to make a commencement on the defensive works pointed out as necessary in Col. Jervois's report. They had had that report in their possession for months, and yet gave no hint that negotiations based on it were progressing with the Imperial Government, till the information was dragged out of them by the publication of the report in the English papers. A subsequent debate in the British Parliament has shown that there is so serious a difference between the authorities there and here as to the amount of responsibility Canada ought justly to assume, that this mission to England is absolutely necessary to endeavour to arrange the difficulty. The deputation will be able to show that Canada has voted a million of dollars for permanent defence—the expenditure of which, however, is conditional on England spending a great deal more for the same purpose than at present she seems willing to do. The delegates will endeavour to obtain an Imperial guarantee of a Canadian loan for defensive purposes; and it is rumoured that the amount for which a guarantee is asked is forty millions of dollars! And yet, while they are about to prefer this modest request, the *Globe*, a paper under the control of Mr. Brown, one of their colleagues, asserts "we have little doubt that the majority of the people of Canada believe that annexation to the United States would benefit them pecuniarily." The Globe, to be sure, adds, "we think that an error, but it is wide spread, and not confined to a party." This random assertion will be likely to cause the negotiators infinite embarrassment in successfully carrying out the object of their mission, as the impression in England at the present time, evidently is that the United States will force a quarrel leading to war with Great Britain just as soon as it suits their convenience. What inducement will there be, even for the most zealous upholders of the colonial connection, to tax themselves for a people whose secret sympathies are thus alleged to be on the side of the very power against which their representatives are seeking British aid to protect them?

Taking all the circumstances, connected with the question into consideration, the delegates have a difficult and delicate task before them, the settlement of which will be likely to tax their diplomatic abilities to the utmost.

A Batch of Warlike Rumours.

If the Americans attempt to perform all they have promised to do when the civil war is at an end, they are likely to have their hands full of fighting for some years to come. It appears they are keeping up their claims upon Great Britain for damages done by the Confederate cruisers to American shipping, which, unless abandoned, will inevitably lead to war. There is also a prospect of trouble with France, if they persist in their determination not to recognize the new Empire in Mexico, as the Emperor of the French is resolved to maintain Maximilian in the position he has helped him to attain. Besides these two prospective difficulties, the N. Y. *Commercial* mysteriously alleges that a "war clap will soon be heard in a quarter where it is least expected by friend or foe."

There rumours will have a tendency to damp the ardour of those persons in Canada who favour annexation, on the ground that it would be cheaper to join than to fight the United States. Once annexed, the "drafts" from Canada to fight "all the world and the rest of mankind" would become a very unwelcome institution to them.

Seed Grain Meeting in Tudor.

Pursuant to public notice, the ratepayers of the united townships of Tudor, Wollaston and Limerick met in the Orange Hall at the Jordan, on Friday, the 17th instant, in order to give their decision whether they wished the Council to apply for seed grain for those townships or not. Mr. Robert Holland was called to the chair, and Mr. William Harper was appointed Secretary.

Mr. Jelly said he had called the meeting, as the Warden had told him it was advisable to have the opinion of the ratepayers expressed on this matter. He (Mr. J.) understood that although perhaps the supply of grain for which the township might apply was not limited to the amount of $1,500, yet it was evident that in view of the amount which other townships were likely to require, Tudor ought not to exceed that sum.

A show of hands was then taken, whether to apply for seed grain or not. The vote was almost unanimous in favour of it, there being only one dissentient.

After some discussion,—during which it was stated that supposing the meeting decided to ask for $1,500, the expenses of purchase, carriage, &c., of the grain would amount to about $300, leaving $1,200 worth of grain,—Mr. John Ward moved, seconded by Mr. Wm. Gunter, that $1,500 be the amount applied for. Mr. Wm. Harper (as a taxpayer) moved an amendment, which was seconded, that the amount be $800, as he thought that would be more advisable.—The original motion was carried by a large majority.

It was left for the Council to determine the quantity they should purchase of each kind of grain—wheat, peas, and oats—but it was hinted that the proportion advisable would be about one-third of each, or as near as circumstances allowed.

Mr. Jelly said his opinion was that the grain should be deposited at the Jordan and at McKilligan's, and that the Council should meet in due season to receive applications and give due bills for the grain granted. He also thought it would be best that the grain should be given out to those producing the due bills on or about the 25th April, and the day or two following, if necessary, and that Mr. Harper should be appointed to be present on the days fixed upon, and superintend the delivery of the grain. Security would, of course, be required from all those of whom the Council might think it necessary.

After a unanimous vote of thanks to Mr. Holland for presiding, the meeting broke up.

THE MADOC MISSION TEA-MEETING.—The unpropitious weather, and the bad state of the roads, prevented as large an assemblage of the supporters of the Church of England and Ireland Mission as might, under more favourable circumstances, have been expected at the Tea-Meeting in the Good Templars' Hall on Wednesday evening, as the majority of them reside at considerable distances from the village. Many who had intended to come were consequently unavoidably absent. Numerous representatives of the other religious denominations in the village, however, were present, and helped to make up a fair audience. The chair was occupied by James Richardson, Esq. and addresses were made by the Rev. P. Smith, A. F. Wood, Esq., Warden of the County, Dr. Relyea, of Belleville, and Messrs. U. Seymour, E. D. O'Flynn, G. D. Rawe and T. Agar. Mr. Weiss, Mr. Clougher, and the Madoc String Band contributed liberally to the evening's entertainment

musical performances.—An abundant supply
hments having been left over, a tea-meeting
ren took place at noon the next day, and a
" was held on Friday evening, for the pur-
appropriately disposing of them.

ATES successfully passed the examination for
lass certificate at the Military School of In-
in Toronto on Friday last, and with the other
en examined at the same time was highly
ented by the inspecting officer on the pro-
of his drill.

---

mour was current in the town yesterday that
man holding a prominent official position
e a sudden and unaccountable disappearance.
ille *Independent*, 21st.

Great Freshet at Belleville.

llowing account of the damage done at Belle
the freshet has reached Madoc in rather
out way, having been telegraphed in the firs
to the Toronto *Leader*. In addition to th
ars there given, we understand that Coleman's
s carried away on Wednesday evening.

VILLE, March 22, 1865.—To day the ice in th
iver gave way, bearing down in its cours
barns, sheds, and outbuildings on both side
iver. The fine iron bridge has been swep
rried down the river and crushed to pieces
houses, principally on the west side of th
e completely surrounded by water, from tw
eet deep. The mouth of the river is block-
h ice, and the water turned from its usual
shing down in front of Coleman and Everett
ngaged in removing families and
n the most dangerous localities
e river, and many of the inhabi
a further rise, as the water still
This is the most destructive
hich has ever taken place here. The dam
to property, including the iron bridge, which
ost new, is estimated at from $15,000 to

Arrival of the City of London.

teamship City of London, from Liverpool o
via Queenstown on the 9th, arrived at New
the 21st inst.

reported that the Emperor Napoleon wa
esolved on maintaining the Empire of Mexic
honor of the French flag.

London *Star* repudiates the rumors of a possi
between England and America.

e absence of later news from America, whic
xiously expected, the result of the fall o
ton continued to be largely canvassed.

Times says the next operations are waited fo
ngular interest. The Federals have recovered
ilitary reputation, but if the South still resolve
t out till the end, they have made but little
s towards the conclusion of the war.

nother editorial the *Times* says the signs o
erate exhaustion have brought us to the turn
nt which places us within sight of the fina
nd part we shall be called on to play in it
e Federal government maintains the quarre
ngland in the shape of claims which she doe
knowledge, the question we have to address
es to is simply whether they can go to wa
with a fair prospect of success. If they ca
ertainly will.

Times argues the Washington government will
e wisdom, by not attacking immediately on th
sion of peace. But it will be for English states
the proper time to see that the quarrel is no
d to hang over till it suits American conve
and opportunity.

LOWER PROVINCES AND CONFEDERATION.—
inisters of Canada will not, we think, make
ort to get the British Government to coerce
ople of these provinces into federation, unless
they are sincerely desirous of having the
fining destroyed for ever. If they make the
pt, their doing so will at once give color and
nce to all the statements and assertions, made
the late political campaign, of Canada's desire
re confederation to sustain her failing credit
get our revenue, small as it is, to aid her in her
ity. At the first sign of Canada attempting to bring any pressure to bear upon us or of the Imperial government attempting to coerce us in this particular, the province will in an unmistakeable manner, make known its determination.—*St. John's, New Brunswick, Globe.*

ADVERTISEMENTS.

To all Whom It May Concern.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Undersigned will apply to the MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF MADOC, at their next regular meeting, for the purpose of obtaining the government allowance of road across Lot 17, between the Third and Fourth Concessions, in lieu of the road given by them across their lots.

ANDREW BEGG.
HENRY ROBINSON.

Madoc, March 24, 1865.

LIST OF LETTERS

Remaining in Madoc Post Office up to February 28, 1865.

Brown, Jas & John	Ketcheson, Mrs P
Brown, D C	Louis, Isiah
Bradshaw, Jeptha	Lyle, Robert
Breakenridge, Jas	Mc Guire, James
Brown, Wm	Mc Coy, Wm J
Chisholm, M	Murphy, Patrick
Creage, Samuel	Macbeth, William
Coons, Miss M E	Martin, Jessie
Dulmage, Samuel	Monroe, L
Dickens, Wm	Mc Goffa, Mrs
Dowd, C P	Martin, Samuel
Eager, Mrs Elizabeth	Mooney, Wm H
Fitzpatrick, John	Nelson, Mr A
Fitzpatrick, John	Pollock, John
Fitzpatrick, John	Pelow, Louis
Fox, Miss Jenny	Rusaw, Miss Margaret
Fife, James	Raspberry, Mary
Frise, Mr G	Stackpole Agustos
Hannah, J W	St Charles, John
Hulin, James	St Charles, Johnny
Hulin, Mary	Stetrow, James
Hemstreet, Samuel	Vancleek, Peter
Hermon, Mrs Wm	Wannamaker, J H
Howe, Simon	Wannemaker, J H

A. F. WOOD, *Postmaster.*

MADOC HOUSE.

WOOD & BREAKELL,

General Merchants,

Are Paying the HIGHEST PRICE in CASH for any Quantity of

Wheat, Rye, Barley, Oats, and Peas.

FLOUR for Sale, fresh ground and in Barrels.

August 17, 1864.

FARM TO LET.

THE FARM, containing 200 acres, Lot No. 9, in the 9th Concession of Huntingdon, with extensive buildings, known as

"The Old Francis Place."

Rent moderate.

This Farm is on the County gravel road from Belleville to MADOC, Five Miles from the latter place, where there is a cash market for produce. Apply to

ROMEO H. STEPHENS, Montreal, or
M. P. HAYES, Madoc.

April 16, 1864.

NORTH HASTINGS.

JOB PRINTING

OF EVERY DESCRIPTION
Executed at the

"MERCURY"

OFFICE, MADOC,

(The Only Printing Establishment in the North Riding,)

With Neatness and Dispatch.

SUPPORT THE LOCAL INSTITUTIONS!!

North American Hotel, Madoc.

W. HUDGINS

RESPECTFULLY informs the Public that his new Hotel, erected on the site of the old stand, is now finished and completely furnished and ready for the reception of guests.

THE NORTH AMERICAN HOTEL is quite equal in all its arrangements to any first class hotel in any village in Canada.

A Good Yard and Stables attached to the premises.

All the Liquors are of the very best quality and brands.

☞ Fine Ale and Porter always on draught.

MEDICAL HALL.
DURHAM STREET, MADOC.

C. G. WILSON,

CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST.

FOR SCHOOL BOOKS, STATIONERY, AND CHILDREN'S BOOKS,

At Publishers' Prices, Call At

WILSON'S DRUG STORE,

DURHAM STREET. MADOC.

A. F. WOOD,

MARRIAGE LICENSE AGENT,
MADOC.

J. R. KETCHESON,

Township Clerk,

WILL be at the TOWN-HALL, MADOC, every SATURDAY, to attend to the business of the Township.

MADOC GRIST MILL,

A. F. WOOD, Madoc.

A thoroughly Competent Miller in charge.

MR. GREAM,

(Solicitor and Attorney of the Chancery and Law Courts of England)

Conveyancer, Coroner, &c.

JAMES FITZGERALD,

ATTORNEY AND CONVEYANCER
MADOC.

A. B. ROSS & BROTHER,

GENERAL MERCHANTS,

The Highest Price in Cash paid for Potash

A. B. ROSS. S. D. ROSS.

Best Spanish Sole Leather

ON HAND, CHEAP FOR CASH.

CASH Paid for HIDES and PELTS by
SYLVANUS MULLETT.

C. E. RANKIN,

Provincial Land Surveyor,
Civil Engineer, &c.

OFFICE, Hudgins' Hotel, Madoc.

FOR SALE, OR TO LET,

THE HOUSE on the North side of KELLAR'S BRIDGE. It is well adapted and situated for a

GENERAL STORE,

Being eight miles distant from the Village of Hastings, on the new Gravel Road to Tudor. Six Acres of Land attached.

For TERMS, inquire at the MERCURY Office.

MADOC MARKET PRICES.

SATURDAY, March 25, 1865.

ASHES	$4 50 ₱ cwt.
BARLEY	80 cents.
OATS	45 cents.
WHEAT	90 cents.
RYE	50 cents.
PEAS	60 cents.
HIDES	$7.
PORK	$12 ₱ bbl.
BUTTER	16 ₱ lb.
EGGS	6d.
HAY	$ ₱ ton.

BELLEVILLE MARKETS.

Fall Wheat, 5s. 0d. 60s. 0d. Spring Wheat, 4s 9d 5s 0d.
Rye, 3s. Barley, 2s 9d 3s 0d. Oats, 2s 3d 2s 6d.
Peas, 3s 9d 4s 0d. Butter 9d. Eggs, 7½d. Hides, firm at 12c 6d ₱ 100. Pelts, steady at 6s 3d for fresh. Wool, 1s 9d.
Potash, 22s 6d.

OLD FOLKS.

Ah, don't be sorrowful, darling,
And don't be sorrowful, pray;
Taking the year together, my dear,
There isn't more night than day;

'Tis rainy weather, my darling,
There's waves, they heavily run,
But taking the year together, my dear,
There isn't more cloud than sun!

We are old folks now, my darling,
Our heads are growing gray,
But taking the year all round, my dear,
You will always find the May!

We have had our May, my darling,
And our roses long ago,
And the time of the year is coming, my dear,
For the silent night and the snow!

And God is God, my darling,
Of night as well as of day;
We feel and know that we can go
Wherever he leads the way.

Ah, God of the night, my darling,
Of the night of death so grim,
The gate that leads out of life, good wife,
Is the gate that leads to him.

HASTY JUDGEMENTS.

BY ELIZABETH O'HARA.

(*Concluded.*)

Poor Agnes! She had learnt her lesson of love from the most attractive man in Hatherleigh, and this change in his manner was not unfelt by her: she feared she had given her heart too soon; that she had wasted its affections; that—bitterest thought of all—she had unsought been won; and self-reproach was added to sore disappointment. Her mother, too—her suffering, widowed mother—noted the change in Bolton's manner, and her daughter's grief, with increasing sorrow; she also had hoped that brighter days were in store for her dear girl, and it was hard to feel her own end rapidly approaching, and to know that her child would be left alone in a dreary world. Was it nothing, either, to lose the frequent visits that had chequered the monotony of their secluded lives,—the friendly attentions that had softened the iron pressure of poverty? And all these trials were occasioned by thoughtless gossip and harsh judgments.

Such was the situation of my hero and heroine,—if I may give such high-sounding names to a country doctor and a penniless girl,—when Mr. Hall, the chief mercer in Hatherleigh, fell ill, and sent for Bolton, who, after prescribing the necessary medicines, proceeded to put in practice the no less necessary remedy, a good chat with his patient. Invalids can all appreciate the merits of a medical man who talks or listens; a good course of grumbling is often of infinite relief to the patient, and clears the system, while gossip skilfully administered is invaluable as a tonic. Of course, Hall began to abuse the times.

"It's no use, sir, for me to bring down handsome articles—ladies can't afford to buy them; and in my experience I've found that very few women can be persuaded to go much further than they intended; they're an obstinate sex, as I tell Mrs. H. Bless your heart, Doctor! I know when a lady comes to my shop meaning to be tempted, but I never try their prudence too far—'tisn't fair; besides, who's to pay? 'Tis a rule of the trade, sir, when a foolish woman seems inclined to go a-head, we draw in: we can pretty well tell the length of her tether. If her husband takes us in by false appearances, it's his fault if she spends more than she ought, for I dare say she's deceived also in his income. It's beautiful, sir, to see how the ladies will cut and contrive, and look at both sides of a penny, and the edge, too, as I say; and it's a trial in its way to resist the temptations I can produce for themselves and their daughters."

"And yet some women are wickedly extravagant," remarked Bolton.

"Very few, Doctor; not so many as might be, considering all things; why, here now, I had a handsome shawl on hand—could not get it off, and yet it was a glorious bargain—dirt cheap—I should have had no profit."

"So you say, Mr. Hall."

"Fact, sir, on my word; I wanted to dispose of it for a lady I respect, and I should not have charged a penny commission; but there it hung, like a piece of shop-goods, till she took it back it again. Miss Price now had a hankering for it, for she's a clever girl, and a real judge of a good article, but the figure was too high for her, and so Miss Dalton fetched it away."

"Miss Dalton!" exclaimed George.

"Yes, Doctor; I hope you won't let this go further, as she might be hurt, and it slipped out unawares; it was sent her a present from abroad, and she tried hard to get money's worth for it; she said it was unsuited to her circumstances; but I believe she was not sorry it was not sold when her cousin came down to see her, for, from what I can gather, she does not want her family to know exactly how they are situated: Mrs. Dalton's people, you see, never took to the Captain, and if they knew he died in debt, it would be a kind of triumph to them; but Mrs. and Miss Dalton had pretty nearly made all straight, though they've had a pretty hard push for it. Miss Dalton gets very handsome presents from abroad, and I've disposed of many a fine gown for her that would have set her off famously."

"Is it possible?" cried Bolton.

"Yes," continued Hall, warming with his subject, "they have pinched more than any one would fancy; they eat little butter with their bread. I know it, because they lodged at Mrs. Hall's sister's; and as they'd dealt with me for many years, Miss Agnes asked if I would let her work some collars for sale, to set against their mourning; and I've sold a great deal for her, more than they ever owed me. She's at it for ever; I never saw such industry. And she won't leave her mother, though she had a very high situation offered her lately, because Mrs. Dalton's in that weak way she can't safely be left alone. They don't call you in, because they can't afford it. Poor girl! her's is a life of slavery, waiting night and day on her sick mother; and yet she always looked so cheerful, and kept up a good heart, till lately. Mrs. Hall's sister thought something would come of it when her cousin was down, for anybody might see that he was smitten; indeed, they will have it that she refused him, for he went off in a hurry, as if he were huffed."

George fancied he had never heard so eloquent a speaker as the kind-hearted mercer. How simple,—nay, how praiseworthy was Agnes's conduct and motives. Yet, on the same unaltered facts, he had pronounced her weakly proud, and extravagant; and had rejected the precious gift Providence had offered him in her affections. Need I say that he hastened to the widow's cottage, and, despite her changed reception, poured forth the story of his doubts and hesitation to Mrs. Dalton. Need I say that Agnes, woman-like, forgot her lover's want of trust, and even confessed that he was guilty of marring her cousin's wooing. These things may be guessed; but who can guess the bitterness of Agnes's previous sorrow? And what caused her that undeserved pang? A harsh, unchristian judgment. Reader! pause; take the lesson to heart; and should you in turn be inclined to wonder at, or to censure your neighbour's actions, remember the divine precept, "Judge not, lest you also be judged."

ARCHITECT AND BUILDER.—There is a story on record of an architect insisting on the difference between a builder and an architect, in the case of the late Mr. Alexander, the architect of various buildings in the county of Kent. He was undergoing a cross-examination in a special jury case at Maidstone, by Serjeant (afterwards Baron) Garrow, who wished to detract from the weight of his testimony; and who, after asking his name, proceeded thus:—"You are a builder, I believe?"—"No, sir; I am not a builder; I am an architect."—"Oh, well! architect or builder, builder or architect: they are much the same, I suppose?"—"I beg your pardon, sir, I cannot admit that: I consider them to be totally different."—"Oh, indeed! Perhaps you will state wherein this great difference consists."—"An architect, sir, prepares the plans, conceives the designs, draws out the specifications—in short, supplies the mind. The builder is merely the bricklayer or the carpenter; the builder, in fact, is the machine; the architect the power that puts the machine together, and sets it going."—"Oh, very well, Mr. Architect—that will do! And now, after your very ingenious distinction without a difference [foolish barrister], perhaps you could inform the court who was the architect of the Tower of Babel?" The reply was as smart as it was prompt.—"There was no architect, sir; and hence the *confusion*."

GREAT VIRTUES.—Great virtues are rare; the occasions for them are rarer; and when they do occur we are prepared for them. We are excited by the grandeur of the sacrifice—we are supported either by the splendour of the deed in the eyes of the world, or by the self-complacency that we experience from the performance of an uncommon action. Thus the hero perishes on the battle-field, and the martyr at the stake. Little things are unforeseen, they return every moment; they come in contact with our pride, our indolence, our haughtiness, our readiness to take offence; they contradict our inclination perpetually. Hence, we regard not as heroes, those who fail not in the smallest duties of life; nor as martyrs those who sacrifice themselves to minuter virtues. It is however, only by fidelity in little, things that a true and constant love of God can be distinguished from a passing fervour of spirit—an enthusiasm of the moment.

VARIETIES.

When does a severe cold resemble a brilliant idea?—When it comes into one's head suddenly.

"The rich," said a Jew, "eat venison because it is deer. I eat mutton because it ish sheep."

It is to be doubted whether he will ever find the way to heaven, who desires to go thither alone.

A false friend is like the shadow on the sundial, appearing in sunshine, but vanishing in shade.

"I see the villain in your face," said a judge to a prisoner. "May it please your worship," replied the latter, "that's a personal reflection."

A witty rogue, brought before a Parisian tribunal for a drunken riot, assured the bench that he was not a drunkard, but in his childhood he was bitten by a mad dog, and he ever since had a horror of water.

Recent explorations show that the Mexican Empire contains a rich mine of coal. This important discovery has been made at Itoluca, about 90 miles from the city of Mexico, and the coal is reported to be of excellent quality.

In a case before the Common Pleas Court, Mr. Justice Byles laid it down that, in point of law, a master was justified in dismissing a servant for calling him "a liar," or in asserting that what the master had said "was a lie."

Caleb Jones gave his experience of the "spiritual call" to the ministry in this wise: "I was ploughing one day, and was called to preach by a voice saying, 'Caleb! Caleb!' Who could have called me thus?" A boy in the back part of the house exclaimed, "May be it war a bull frog, Mr. Jones."

A sheriff's officer was lately sent to exe[illegible] against a Quaker. On arriving at the h[illegible] the Quaker's wife, who, in reply to the i[illegible] ther her husband was at home, answered i[illegible] tive, at the same time requesting him to be seated, and her husband would speedily see him. The officer waited patiently some time; but the fair Quakeress coming into the room, he reminded her of her promise that he should see her husband. "Nay, friend," said she, "I promised that he should see thee; and he has seen thee. He did not like thy looks; therefore he avoided thee, and has left the house by another path."

A gentleman, having set foot for the first time in Ireland, repaired to an hotel for something to eat, and was accommodated with a roast fowl. He was proceeding to eat it, when his plate divided with a sharp crack, and the wing, to which he had just helped himself, flew up to the ceiling. Soon afterwards an excited waiter rushed into the room, crying, "He's safe, he safe!"—"Who's safe?" inquired the bewildered traveller. "Mister O'Musgrave, sir," said the waiter in explanation; "the captain fired in the air!" It thus became apparent to the gentleman that a duel had been fought, in the room beneath, and, without stopping to finish his repast, he ordered his luggage to be packed, and left Ireland immediately.

THE MAGNET OUTDONE.—A lecturer was dilating upon the power of the magnet, defying anyone to show or name anything surpassing its power. A hearer demurred, and instanced a young lady, who used to attract him thirteen miles every Sunday.

NOVEL CURE FOR THE TOOTHACHE.—In a certain Border town there lived an old woman, who, being almost at her wit's end with toothache, bethought herself of a cure. Knowing the causes of lockjaw, she thought the thumb of the left hand must be connected with the teeth or gums and therefore resolved to try a mustard poultice on the thumb. Strange to say, it had the desired effect of entirely removing the sting. Such a cure, so cheap and simple, is surely worth a trial by those afflicted with toothache, especially since the discoverer herself was a victim, and can give her own testimony as to the efficacy of the remedy.

IGNORANT, BUT SOUND IN HIS TASTE.—A Californian gold-digger having become rich, desired a friend to purchase him a library of books. The friend obeyed, and received a letter of thanks thus worded:—"I am obliged to you for the pains of your selection; I particularly admire a grand religious poem about Paradise, by a Mr. Milton, and a set of plays (quite delightful) by a Mr. Shakspere. If these gentlemen should write and publish anything more, be sure and send me their new works."